



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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SEPTEMBER 2022 *Newsletter*

Come Offer Your Ideas for the Future of the Diocese

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Do you have an idea for how the people of the Diocese of Yakima can better “walk together” in the coming years? Maybe you have a suggestion for how we can engage more of our youth? Of how parishioners can speak out and be heard? Or, maybe you have a thought on how to lighten the burdens on your overworked pastor?

Now is your chance to be a part of the conversation! The Church Mission Congress set for October 15 at Holy Family Church in Yakima will give you an opportunity to add your thoughts to research which has been going on for months throughout the Diocese. This research is in preparation for a Synod in Rome next year in which Pope Francis and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church will consider how our Church can best proceed in coming years.

This past Spring, many of you provided a “snapshot in time” of our Diocesan journey together with the Holy Spirit. Six major themes were put forth, which our Diocesan Congress

will focus upon: engaging our youth; speaking out and being heard; creating community; decision-making and governance; priests are unified but tired; and mission and community outreach.

At the Yakima Congress, you’ll be able to offer input for “what the next 10 years in the Diocese will look like” as people continue in their faith journey, said Doug Rich, director of schools and parish services for the Diocese of Yakima. “This will aid in development of a 10-year strategic plan.”

“You can say what’s important to you,” Rich explained. “What does success look like to you, in five to 10 years? What would you like our Church to become?”

The Congress will begin with registration at 8 a.m., and a prayer service at 9 a.m. After a review of input already received from across the Diocese, the gathering will include breakout sessions, in both English and Spanish, before and after lunch, that will allow participants to discuss ideas with members of their



own parish and neighboring parishes in their area. Lunch will feature a catered Mexican-style buffet, Rich said. Vendors also will be on hand with religious merchandise ranging from books and statues to music CDs, along with live entertainment. Ministry tables will offer information on opportunities to serve throughout the Diocese. The event is expected to conclude shortly after 3 p.m., Rich said.

To register for the Congress, visit yakimadiocese.org or call the Yakima Diocese at (509) 965-7117. Deadline for online registration is October 7.

Reconnect With the Rosary During the Month of October

October has been dedicated as the Month of the Rosary, a special observance of this beautiful devotion to our Blessed Mother.



Saying the Rosary has been a Catholic custom for more than 1,000 years. According to Dominican tradition, the Rosary was given to St. Dominic by the Blessed Virgin, in an apparition in Prouille, France, in 1208. St. Dominic then helped to popularize the devotion. In 1520, Pope Leo X gave official approval to the Rosary.

So, what is the purpose of the Rosary, with its many prayers and repeating pattern?

“When we say the Rosary, what

we’re doing is meditating upon the life of Christ,” explained Rev. Michael Ibach, judicial vicar of the Diocese of Yakima and parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish in Yakima.

And why do we repeat the “Hail Mary” and the “Our Father” prayers over and over?

“The idea is that we get into a meditative state, which is not possible with (just) one prayer,” he said. “You kind of relax and put things aside and concentrate on what Jesus has done for us.”

Our prayers are directed to Mary because she is our intercessor, Father continued. The Hail Mary includes the

same words the Angel Gabriel pronounced to her. On the Cross, Jesus gave Mary to John and the Church as our Mother. “She was involved in the life of Christ from birth to death to resurrection.”

In various apparitions of Mary, including her appearance to the children of Fatima, she has encouraged the use of the Rosary. She has promised that we will receive graces, her protection, and even the conversion of Russia if we would faithfully say these prayers. The Catholic Church maintains that an individual who says the Rosary may receive an indulgence – or remission from the consequences of sin.

“It’s a way to make amends for the wrong we’ve done, saying, ‘I want to be better in my Faith,’” Father Ibach said. In troubled times, it’s also a reassuring way to connect with our loving Mother in Heaven!

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

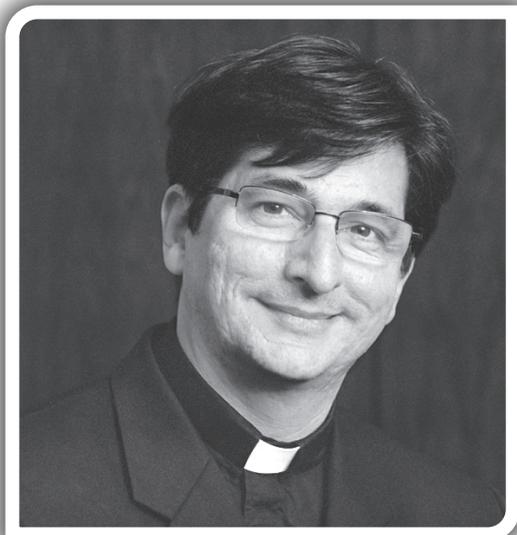
As of press time for the *Central Washington Catholic*, our Church Mission Congress is just a couple of weeks away! Our focus will be on the Church Synod process that has engaged thousands of Catholic parishes around the world the past year.

Here in the Diocese of Yakima we have had over 1,000 participants over the last year who participated in some form. Some have asked, "Is this representative?" The answer is "no," because it is not a survey. It is a snapshot of how those participants see their journey with Christ in our Church. Others have wondered about the point of the process. Are we voting on doctrine? Are we trying to come to some sort of agreement? Again, the answer would be "no."

This is where Pope Francis' use of the word "Encounter" is so very key. The Pope is not trying to smooth out differences. Quite the opposite. He wants to create an encounter between people who often look at their faith in very different ways. A "culture of encounter" does not occur because we all look alike, think alike, come from the same culture or speak the same language. A true "culture of encounter" occurs when we listen to each other even amidst our differences. It is this precise appreciation that makes the deeper unity of faith in Christ as the Crucified and Risen One stand out all the more in our shared life of faith.

As bishop, I am keenly aware that we are in a "talk" culture. We have "talk" radio. We have town hall meetings where people come to "talk" and to "be heard." But this synod process from Pope Francis has the opposite starting point. We come – not to talk – but to listen. If we are to become a Church that listens, then this is based on the fact that we have first listened to the Word of God. We have listened in prayer. We come to listen to others first. And then perhaps we speak. This is a very different approach from what we may be accustomed to doing given our "talk" culture. It is good that we "talk." But it is even better when we "listen."

October 15, 2022 during the Church Mission Congress we will be listening



Bishop Joseph Tyson

to what we have learned in the parish synod process. We will be listening and weighing what we think may be the next steps. We will be listening to the six key themes the Diocese of Yakima Pastoral Council has surfaced in reviewing the work of some 1,000 participants. I will be listening to see how we can calibrate our ministry here in the Diocese of Yakima through good strategic planning that leads to better outreach based on what we have heard together in this diocesan phase.

Allow me to pivot, since we are entering October during which the Church uplifts "Respect Life Month." For the first time, we remember our service to the Gospel of Life in the immediate aftermath of the reversal of *Roe vs. Wade* by the United States Supreme Court. While this is a watershed moment, I have repeatedly written in this column that Washington State is the only state to have legalized abortion *by popular ballot* before the landmark 1973 decision of *Roe vs. Wade* legalized abortion across the United States. With *Roe vs. Wade* returning the question of abortion back to the individual states, not much will change here in Washington State in the short term. We need to continue reaching out to help people change their minds and hearts.

PREPARES is the signature outreach of us bishops here in Washington State where we partner with our Catholic Charities agencies in uplifting both the life of the unborn and the life of the mom. Both lives

matter. We walk with moms in need, their children, their families and even the fathers of their children where possible. We do so to provide a positive and uplifting pathway from the first moment of conception to the child's fifth birthday – and at times even beyond. We depolarize and rehumanize what has been a very contentious public policy issue by focusing on Gospel love reflected through wraparound care that supports the child and builds up the mother.

If you have not done so, I hope you will check out our website PreparesForLife.org and see the joyous way we bear the Gospel of Life to a state-wide culture deeply anchored in legal abortion.

"Synod," as I have written before, comes from the Greek word "to walk together." That is what we do at PREPARES. This is how we can be Church for each other. It is most especially how we discover Christ in the breaking of the bread, as did those two travelers between Emmaus and Jerusalem.

Thanks for making the journey. Thanks for living synodality, especially for those most in need.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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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.

Help Pregnant and Parenting Mothers During Respect Life Month

The Catholic Church in the United States observes October as "Respect Life Month." This year, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, invites Catholics to "practice radical solidarity and unconditional love" for pregnant and parenting mothers.

One way to do that is to participate in the PREPARES initiative to assist women, children and families from conception to age five. Learn more about this work of the Bishops of Washington State and our Catholic Charities agencies at this link: <https://preparesforlife.org/>

The Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* this past June returned the responsibility of limiting abortion from the judiciary to the legislature. For those of us who have prayed for this moment to arrive, says Archbishop Lori, "it is the time for a renewal and rededication of our efforts to build a culture of life and civilization of love." He explains that "justice requires that the basic protections of the law against violence be extended to the preborn child" while explaining that building "a world in which all are welcome requires not only justice, but compassion, healing, and above all, unconditional love."

Moving from law to culture,

Archbishop Lori asks Catholics to "shift the paradigm to what Saint Pope John Paul II described as 'radical solidarity,' making the good of others our own good, including especially mothers, babies (born and unborn), and families throughout the entire human lifespan." He reminds the faithful that "Our Church understands that parents, children, and families need help not just during pregnancy, but throughout the whole of life's journey because millions of Catholics already accompany their neighbors in such circumstances."

Read Archbishop Lori's full statement, "Building a Culture of Life in a Post-Roe World" at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/bdd3umct>.

Another Look at Abortion

The following, abridged article is reprinted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, in honor of October, Respect Life Month, in a past year. It underscores the importance of respecting life from conception:



Effects of Abortion.

Abortion results in the death of a child. For many mothers, abortion causes severe and long-lasting emotional, psychological, and spiritual trauma. Many women experience overwhelming guilt, shame, and grief. Family relationships may suffer as the aborted child's father, grandparents, or other family members experience their own guilt, grief, or

precious and worthy of protection. Every intentional abortion is gravely wrong. In April 2018, Pope Francis wrote: "Our defence of the innocent unborn ... needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development."

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Uniquely YouFrom your first moments of existence, you had all the DNA that would determine your sex, facial features, physique, and the color of your skin, hair, and eyes. At 24 days, your heart began beating. By 8 weeks, all your organs were present, and your unique fingerprints were forming. Ultrasounds show that by 18 weeks, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music. If you'd been born just 23 weeks after conception, your chance of survival would be 50-80 percent; by 25 weeks, it's over 90 percent, and that's still *months* before full-term birth.

loss. Even if the mother keeps her abortion secret, family members can be distressed by changes in the mother's behavior and mental or emotional health.

What the Church Teaches. The Church has consistently taught that every human life is

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

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NEW YORK LIFE

Magnificat Program Continues

Sister Kathleen Ross, snjm, and Sister Mary Rita Rohde, snjm, celebrated the 60th jubilee of their vows on October 2 at St. Aloysius Church in Toppenish. Sister Kathleen is known for her outstanding service to Heritage University. Sister Mary Rita has been dedicated to working with



Sister

Kathleen Ross, snjm



Sister

Mary Rita Rohde, snjm

the Nuestra Casa Hispanic women's outreach in Sunnyside. If you would like to send a note of congratulations to one or both sisters, send it to: Holy Names Sisters, 109 North E Street, Toppenish, WA 98948.

Thank you, Sisters Kathleen and Mary Rita, for your generous service to our people!

After two years of mostly online offerings due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Magnificat Adult Faith Formation program continues in October with a hybrid format. Teachers will present classes from 9 to 11 a.m. to students online and in-person, followed by a two-hour lunch meeting, topical discussion and announcements for catechists and others attending for their personal enrichment.

On Saturday, October 22, at Christ the King Church in Richland, the topic "Morality" will be presented in English by Bishop Tyson, using the same link, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>.

Father Izquierdo will present the same topic in Spanish, using the same link, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889>. During the lunch session, Valeria Flores will make any needed announcements about the program.

Beginning in November, a variety of topics will be offered **online only on Zoom** through the late fall and winter months. The tentative schedule for November is as follows:

Wednesday, Nov. 9: Canonical Issues related to the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Father Michael Ibach will present in English from 6 to 7 p.m. at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82656274445>

Father Jesús Mariscal will present in Spanish from 7 to 8 p.m. at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89886347060>

[us/j/89886347060](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89886347060)

Tuesday, Nov. 15: Bioethics.

Father Jaime Chacón will present in Spanish from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889>

Thursday, Nov. 17: Bioethics.

Father Robert Siler will present in English from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

Saturday, Nov. 19: Anchoring Science in our Faith: "True Happiness."

After an opening prayer by Fr. Chacón, Becky Cates will present in English from 9 to 11 a.m. at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

Tuesday, Nov. 29: Anchoring Science in our Faith: "True Happiness."

Fr. Chacón will present in Spanish from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889>

Presenters on the agenda in December include Father Dan Steele, on "Liturgy" and "Anthropology," Sandra Barros on Mariology, and Father Chacón and Becky Cates again on a variety of topics. Check next month's newsletter, as well as the diocesan website, www.yakimadiocese.org, for more information.

For details about the Magnificat program, contact Valeria Flores at (509) 759-7791 or valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.net.

Deacon Bob Schrom, administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Royal City and Queen of All Saints Catholic Church in



Deacon Bob and Therese Schrom

Warden, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination September 19 as a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Yakima. Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., ordained him along with Father Felix Rodriguez of our Diocese at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. Deacon Bob and his wife, Therese, celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary earlier this year as well. Congratulations, Deacon Bob and Therese!

Support World Missions Collection

The annual collection for World Mission Sunday, our worldwide Eucharistic celebration for the Missions and missionaries of the world, will be taken up the weekend of October 15-16 in the Diocese of Yakima. World Mission Sunday itself is October 23.

Pope Francis' message for World Mission Sunday reflects on the theme: "You shall be My witnesses" (Acts 1:8). In a letter to parishioners encouraging their support, Bishop Joseph Tyson notes that the Holy Father "emphasizes

the call to every Christian to bear witness to Christ, to participate in a mission of universal evangelization, and to seek strength and guidance from the Holy Spirit."

Beginning in 1822, the universal fund of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith provided some \$7 million in help to the new and growing Churches in the United States. Your prayers and generous support today sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in

Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor.

Parishes in the Diocese will be distributing special envelopes for this annual collection, which benefits the Pontifical Mission Society. Donations also may be made through the "special collections" page on the Diocese of Yakima website. Visit here for information: <https://tinyurl.com/4xtdzffk>.