



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

OCTOBER 2022 *Newsletter*

## Take Time Now to Put Upcoming Holiday Season Into Perspective

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Are you already starting to stress about the upcoming holiday season? The shopping. The baking. The relatives arriving for a visit. New clothes. Decorations. The credit card bills.... Stop right there, suggests Father Christian (Tian) Melendez-Cruz, who was ordained for the Diocese of Yakima this past May.

It's time to put a little perspective into our lives, he says. As Father Tian completes the Washington State requirements to be a licensed clinical psychologist, he took the time to talk with the *Central Washington Catholic*, offering insights on how to make those quickly approaching holidays much more meaningful.

The influences of our society plus our very human habit of forgetting some principles that we may have leaned years ago can combine to take the soul right out

of the holiday season, Father maintains. To help put our Catholic Faith back into the center of the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, we may need to do a mental reset.

For starters, Thanksgiving "is just a holiday," he observes. Our spirit of thanksgiving to God, for the many blessings we have received, should be a year-round occurrence.

"Let us remember, this (thankfulness) is for every single day," he stressed. "Everything in our lives should be centered in a spirit of gratitude."

On Thanksgiving day itself, instead of being overwhelmed by the pressures of getting the house clean, hovering over a stove, setting the table, and dealing with potential family squabbles, take a few moments now and then just to express appreciation to God. Be thankful for the food you have, as you place something in the oven. As you're preparing the house,



**Father Christian (Tian) Melendez-Cruz**



be grateful for the family members or friends you have who will be joining you. Be thankful that you have a roof over your head, period.

And then, as the accelerated rush toward Christmas begins, have the adults sit down and consciously consider how to keep Christ as the focus of the season. "The family needs to introspect," he said. "How do I want to teach my kids about Christmas?...Be intentional."

In our society, Christmas is defined by Santa Claus and the presents we give and receive. In his family, Santa was cast as

*Continued on page 2*

## Funeral Held for Father Maurice Peterson

A funeral was held October 27 at St. Andrew Church in Ellensburg for Father Maurice Francis Peterson.

Father Peterson, a senior priest of the Diocese of Yakima, died October 15, at Pacifica Senior Care in Ellensburg, a few days after suffering a seizure. He was 68 and had been diagnosed with frontal lobe dementia about two years ago.

Father Maurie was born in Spokane to Eugene and Betty (Morgan) Peterson. A lifelong Catholic, he attended Lourdes Academy in Ellensburg, then Morgan Middle School and Ellensburg High School, graduating in 1972. He received a B.A. degree in Education and Music Performance from Central Washington University. He often was the principal oboist for school performances, and was a skilled pianist. In 1979, he entered seminary studies for the Diocese at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Under the tutelage of the Benedictine monks who staffed the seminary, Father Maurie deepened his appreciation for the Church's liturgy and sacred music. He completed his studies in

1985, having also taken a leave of absence between 1980-82 to return home as a family caregiver.

After graduating with a Master of Divinity degree, he helped care for his mother, who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She died in 1986. Father Maurie was ordained a priest in 1987 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Yakima by the Most Rev. William Skylstad. He began a three-year assignment as associate pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church in Richland and also was appointed to lead the Diocesan Worship Commission.

In 1990, Father Maurie was appointed pastor of St. Henry's Catholic Church in Grand Coulee, where he helped oversee its merger with St. Benedict Catholic Church in Coulee Dam, across the Columbia River in the Diocese of Spokane.

From 1994-2000, Father Maurie served



**Father Maurice Francis Peterson**

as pastor of the Catholic parishes in Cashmere-Leavenworth, and was then pastor of Holy Apostles Catholic Church in East Wenatchee for two years before beginning a sabbatical in October 2002. About this time, he was diagnosed with a painful arthritic condition in his back and was granted a medical retirement by then-Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J. in 2003. In retirement in Ellensburg, he lived a quiet life of prayer and study in keeping with his Benedictine education. He

also developed a ministry of visiting the sick and elderly, and was active with the funeral luncheon committee at St. Andrew Catholic Church.

Father Maurie was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery on Dry Creek Road in Ellensburg. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Priest Retirement Fund of the Diocese of Yakima, P.O. Box 2189, Yakima, WA 98907. Online condolences may be left at [www.johnston-williams.com](http://www.johnston-williams.com).

## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

I am happy to welcome a new voice to this edition of the *Central Washington Catholic*: Father Christian Melendez. He is the most recently ordained. He came to us via his residency in integrated behavioral health at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic where he was known as Dr. Christian Melendez. That gives him a unique perspective on what can help build up our spiritual life, so that we become holier and more whole as human persons made in the image and likeness of God.

Your generous support of the Annual Catholic Appeal makes his ministry possible. It also supports his extra year of post-doctoral studies as he prepares for his psychological licensing here in Washington State.

You will notice, too, we write about a new year of Magnificat courses! One of the great learnings from COVID-19 is how many people embraced Facebook and Zoom as platforms for connecting with Magnificat. This last month, two of the recently ordained, Father Edgar Quiroga at Christ the King in Richland, and Father César Izquierdo from St. Joseph in Kennewick, joined me at different times for Magnificat. We provided a live teaching opportunity at Christ the King in both Spanish and English even as we provided a “remote”



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

learning option through Zoom.

During the spring and fall seasons, we provide Magnificat as your faith enrichment with both an in-person option as well as a remote learning option from the comfort of your home. Winter meant a pause in our Magnificat program during previous years. But because of our technology and so many embracing the remote learning option, we will continue to have Zoom courses despite the snow. All of this is thanks to your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal.

November is a time we remember our deceased loved ones. We celebrate a Mass for our deceased priests Tuesday,

November 22 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Cathedral. We remember in this issue Father Maurie Peterson, whose funeral we celebrated in his hometown of Ellensburg where he grew up and where he died. Your Catholic Annual Appeal supports the administrative and technical service we give our priests from the pastoral center here in Yakima. Sometimes that involves helping them negotiate the complexities of “self-employment tax,” sometimes it means working with health care providers to ensure the best quality of life when infirm or sick, as was the case with Father Peterson.

Thank you for your generous support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. I hope our articles this month inspire you to consider the gift you have received from God of your own life on earth, as well as the gifts you have received through the priests of the parish, the sacraments of the Church and the enrichment of our faith through our many faith formation programs and pastoral services from the Diocese of Yakima.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Take Time Now to Put Upcoming Holiday Season Into Perspective *Continued from page 1*

more of an “elf of Jesus Christ” or “Christ’s employee,” Father recalled. Gifts were regarded as ultimately coming from God.

“Don’t be afraid to talk to your kids,” he said. Prepare them for what they may encounter in society and explain, “I’m telling you what we believe as a family.” Also set the scene at home, with religious decorations, cards, prayer and observances.

“Everything – decorations, gifts – should point to Jesus Christ,” Father Tian

says. Even if you give your child a gift such as an Xbox, attach a lesson about sharing the device with a sibling or friend. With a gift of Legos, you can encourage a child’s gift of creativity and urge that that creativity be used to help others. Even a utilitarian lawnmower can be accompanied by a message that you appreciate your spouse’s hard work to care for the family.

“We have to be conscious,” he says. By adjusting our thinking about the holidays

now, we can pass along a priceless gift for generations to come.

## Annual Mass for Deceased Clergy Is Scheduled

The annual Mass to remember, lift 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 22. Bishop Joseph Tyson and attending priests will concelebrate the Mass, assisted by our diaconate community, at 5:30 p.m. at

St. Paul Cathedral, at 15 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima.

The Mass also will be livestreamed on the Cathedral website and Facebook page. All are welcome to join in this Eucharistic celebration. For more information, contact [parish@stpaulyakima.org](mailto:parish@stpaulyakima.org) or (509) 575-3713.

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.

### Central Washington Catholic

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# How Many of The Saints of Autumn Can You Name?

There are many Catholic saints whose feast days are observed during Autumn. How many of the following can you identify? The answers follow at the end.



1) October 1. This saint, who was born in 1873 in France, has often been called "The Little Flower." A cloistered Carmelite, she is known for her "little way" of small actions and sacrifices. She died at the age of 24 years.

2) October 4. The founder of the Franciscan order, this Italian saint was born in 1181. After a period of living sinfully, he had a conversion and turned to God. He began to preach, lived simply, and showed a special love for nature and all animals.

3) October 15. Born in Spain in 1515, this saint was sent to the convent at age 16 by her father, who decided she was out of control. After a time away from prayer, she began to pray again and had mystical experiences such as visions. She opened new convents and taught and wrote about prayer.

4) October 18. Credited with one of the four Gospels, this saint was believed to have been born in Greece, a Gentile. He became a physician, and showed a special interest in teaching the Gentiles of his time. For a while, he traveled with the Apostle, Paul. His Gospel highlights the poor and social justice.

5) November 3. Born in Lima, Peru, in 1579, this saint grew up in poverty. He also experienced mockery because of his mixed race. He became a servant for a Dominican convent, and, after years of service, was allowed to take vows as a member of the Third Order. He cared for the sick, had mystical experiences such

as passing through locked doors and founded an orphanage.

6) November 11. A native of what is now Hungary, this saint was born in about 316 A.D. At age 10, he became a Christian. As an adult, he left the military, becoming the first known conscientious objector. He taught about the divinity of Christ, and lived as a hermit for a time. He later

founded a monastery, continuing to evangelize the people, and was eventually ordained a bishop.

7) November 13. The patron saint of a parish of the Diocese of Yakima, this woman was born in 1850 in Italy. The youngest of 13 children, she taught at a girls' school and later took religious vows. She helped found the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to serve in schools and hospitals. In 1889, she came to the United States and went on to establish many orphanages, schools and hospitals, caring for the poor, sick and especially Italian immigrants.

8) November 28. The patron saint of the Miraculous Medal, this woman was born in 1806 in France. A pious child, she regarded the Blessed Virgin as her mother after the death of her biological mother. She joined the Daughters of Charity, and had a vision in which Our Lady showed herself inside an oval frame. The saint was told that this image should be placed on medals, with

words asking for Mary's intercession, and wearers would receive "great graces."

9) December 7. This saint, born around 340 A.D. grew up in what is now Germany. He became the Bishop of Milan, Italy, and was an impressive preacher. He even helped to convert St. Augustine who had strayed from God for numerous years. This saint was called by Augustine's mother, St. Monica, "an angel of God..." He also is credited with the line, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."

10) December 13. Losing her life in a persecution of Christians in the fourth century, this saint's name can mean "light." When she rejected a bridegroom, he reported her faith to the area's governor, and she was martyred. Her eyes were removed, yet, as she was about to be buried, it was noticed that her eyes had been miraculously replaced. She is the patron saint of the blind.

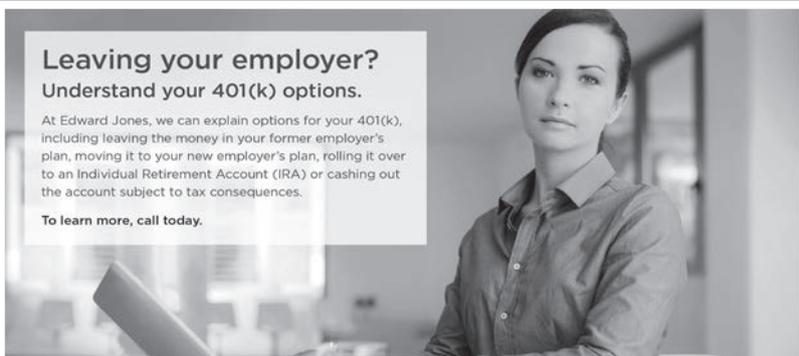
Answers: 1) St. Therese of Lisieux; 2) St. Francis of Assisi; 3) St. Teresa of Avila; 4) St. Luke; 5) St. Martin de Porres; 6) St. Martin of Tours; 7) St. Frances Xavier Cabrini; 8) St. Catherine Laboure; 9) St. Ambrose; 10) St. Lucy.

(Based on information from the website [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org))

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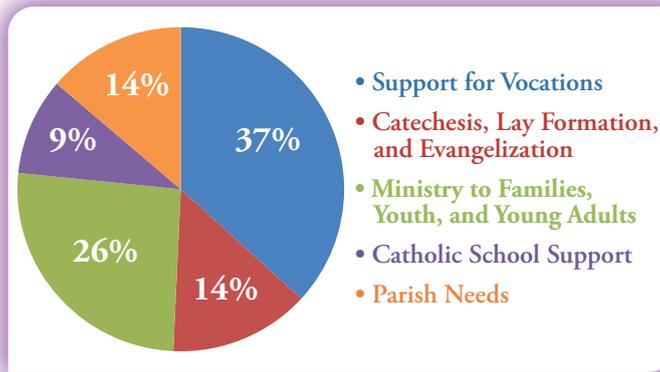
# Annual Catholic Appeal: 'Walking Together in Christ'

By Alma Benitez, Director of Stewardship and Development

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 2023 ACA. ACA pledge weekend is November 5 and 6. Envelopes also can be picked up at your local parish. Another quick way to donate is to scan the QR code that will instantly direct the user to the ACA donation page.

This year, I have chosen "Walking Together in Christ" as the theme for our appeal – because Jesus walks along with you and me as He did with the two disciples towards Emmaus. *Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. And it happened that, while He was with them at the table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave to*



*them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. ~Luke 24*

Today, He walks with you and me and invites us to join Him at the Table.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THIS TABLE!

Our 2023 ACA Diocesan goal is to raise \$1.7 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 2022

ACA year, \$382,151 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.

Please make your gift today online at [www.yakimadiocese.org](http://www.yakimadiocese.org), or by scanning the code.



## New Magnificat Sessions Planned

The Magnificat Adult Faith Formation program continues in November with an **online only** format. These Zoom sessions will take place through the late fall and winter months.

The schedule for upcoming classes 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>

### 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 Father 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."

Father 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:

### Thursday, Dec. 1: Liturgy.

Father Dan Steele will present in English from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

### Saturday, Dec. 3: Marian Class on the Popular Religiosity of Guadalupe.

Father Eduardo Chávez and Sandra Barros will present in Spanish from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the following link (passcode 198438): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86570287108>

### Tuesday, Dec. 6: Anchoring Science in our Faith: "Why Would God Allow Suffering?"

Father Jaime Chacon will present in Spanish from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889>

### Saturday, Dec. 10: Anchoring Science in our Faith: "Why Would God

### Allow Suffering?"

Following an opening prayer, Father Jaime Chacon and Becky Cates will present in English from 9 to 11 a.m. at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

### Tuesday, Dec. 13: Anthropology.

Father Dan Steele will present in English from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

### Thursday, Dec. 15: Anchoring Science in our Faith: "Scientific Evidence of a Soul."

Father Jaime Chacon will present in Spanish from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889>

### Saturday, Dec. 17: Anchoring Science in our Faith: "Scientific Evidence of a Soul."

Following an opening prayer, Father Jaime Chacon and Becky Cates will present in English from 9 to 11 a.m. at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

Check next month's newsletter, as well as the diocesan website, [www.yakimadiocese.org](http://www.yakimadiocese.org), for more information. For details about the Magnificat program, contact Valeria Flores at (509) 759-7791 or [valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.net](mailto:valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.net).