



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

FEBRUARY 2023 *Editor*

World Rosary of Mater Fatima Draws Crowd to Saint Paul Cathedral

More than 1,200 people gathered at St. Paul Cathedral on February 20 for the Fifth World Rosary of Mater Fatima. In addition, more than 500,000 individuals from around the world joined in on EWTN, YouTube and Facebook, “expressing their love for God and our Mother Mary,” according to Father Jesus Alatorre, event chaplain.



The procession from St. Joseph Church neared St. Paul Cathedral.

The international Rosary, previously held at sites in Portugal, Mexico, Colombia and Nicaragua, was dedicated to the “innocence of all children,” conversion of sinners, world peace, and the well-being of families, the Pope and missionaries of the Faith. It was preceded by a procession from St. Joseph Church in Yakima to the Cathedral. The four-hour program included exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, invocation of the Holy Spirit, and recitation of the Rosary, followed by a consecration of attendees to Jesus Christ, and Benediction. Some 178

children were consecrated. The crowd overflowed into the Cathedral chapel and even the former St. Paul School gym.

The World Rosary celebrated the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917 and included the presence of a traveling statue of Our Lady of Fatima, surrounded by white roses, plus relics of Jacinta and Francisco, two of the children to whom Mary appeared, and numerous saints. The annual celebration is a faithful response to Our Lady’s plea to pray the Rosary.



A choir from Christ the King School in Richland added beautiful music to the event.

The gathering at St. Paul Cathedral was “very beautiful,” observed attendee Carol Berger of Holy Redeemer Parish in Yakima. “It was very inspiring To see the love and trust everybody has in our dear Mother’s intervention.” Berger also expressed appreciation that Yakima, Washington was chosen as the site for this worldwide event!

In a letter to Bishop Joseph Tyson, Father Alatorre credited more than

100 volunteers from 15 parishes of the Diocese of Yakima, four parishes of the Diocese of Spokane and Cathedral personnel with helping to make the large event possible. Bishop Tyson presided at the World Rosary with 20 or so priests joining in. Father Alatorre also praised nine Catholic “singer-songwriters,” the Cathedral choir and the girls’ choir from Christ the King School in Richland for their contributions.



A statue of Our Lady of Fatima stood in majesty in the Cathedral.

Statues of Our Lady of Fatima have been circulating to some 20 parishes in the Yakima and Spokane dioceses since January. More visitations are planned until May, with St. Joseph Parish in Yakima scheduled through March 6 and Our Lady of the Desert Parish in Mattawa following, through March 13.

“Without a doubt, Mary Most Holy, Mother of us and of the Church, leaves us the task of continuing to unite as one Church and community under her sacred mantle,” Father Alatorre concluded. “In this international event, the Blessed Virgin Mary opens the door for us to coordinate future Marian events in our Diocese, which we hope to prepare together with the same love and devotion. United in prayer!”

Fundraiser To Honor Monsignor John Ecker, Benefit Christ The Teacher School

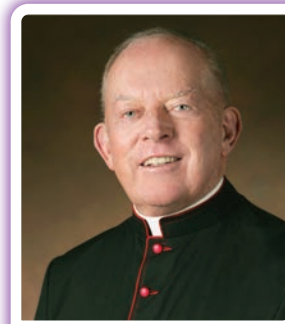
“Feed My Lambs” is the theme of a fundraiser dinner and auction benefiting Christ the Teacher Catholic School, set for Friday, April 14 at the Yakima Convention Center. The event’s special honoree will be Monsignor John Ecker, vicar general of the Diocese of Yakima and pastor of St. Paul Cathedral, who is celebrating his 90th birthday and the 65th anniversary of his ordination.

Sponsored by the Monsignor Ecker Foundation, the fundraiser will feature Andrew Kuffner, Ed.D., as guest speaker.

Kuffner, who is La Salle Director of Formation for Mission in the District of San Francisco, will discuss “Service and Gratitude.”

Doors will open at 4:45 p.m. for a social hour followed by dinner. Tickets are \$85 per person or \$680 for a table of eight. They are available at St. Paul Cathedral, Holy Family Church and Christ The Teacher School or online at www.eckerfoundation.org

All are welcome to come and honor



Monsignor John Ecker

priesthood on February 3!

Monsignor Ecker for his dedicated service to the Diocese of Yakima as well as his work as a U.S. Navy chaplain during the Vietnam War and beyond. It’s also a great time to honor his 90th birthday on March 18 and his 65th anniversary of

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

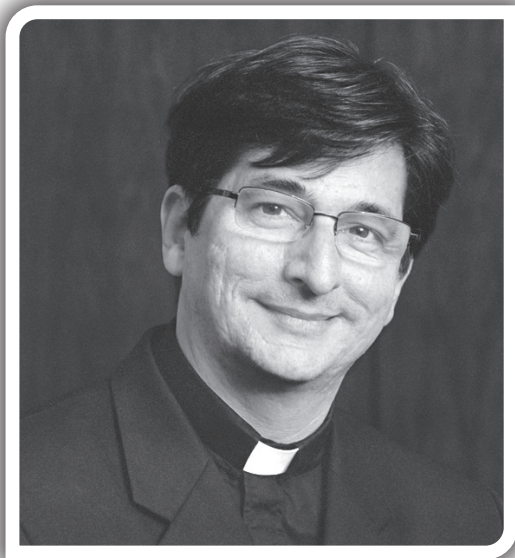
Our current issue features coverage of the recent celebration in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. I cannot begin to thank so many clergy and parishioners from all parts of the Diocese of Yakima who came for the day. We had parishioners from the north Columbia basin near Waterville and the Coulees. We had parishioners from the Wenatchee Valley. We had parishioners from the Kittitas Valley. We had parishioners from Benton County, Klickitat County and the many parishes in the Yakima Valley. We had Spanish speakers and English speakers. We even had a sprinkling of older folks whose German was a bit rusty. We heard the Italian language, the Portuguese language and the Tagalog language – a principal language from the Philippines. The fifth annual Worldwide Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima was truly one of the most broad-reaching events our Cathedral has hosted. To all of you who came and all of you who volunteered: Thank you!

The next big event is the Congreso de Evangelización Familiar that takes place at the SunDome here in Yakima from Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30, 2023. This is the first since COVID-19 halted the 2020 event. I have asked pastors not to schedule additional parish events this weekend so parishioners can come. I am also hoping our priests will come and help

Chrism Mass is Scheduled

The annual Chrism Mass is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. If there is a livestreaming option, online participation will be through the parish Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulCathedralYakima>, and shared to the diocesan page.

Bishop Joseph Tyson will be the principal celebrant, with priests of the Diocese concelebrating and deacons assisting. Priests, deacons and



Bishop Joseph Tyson

out with the Sacrament of Penance during the talks and presentations. Personally, I also have not scheduled any Confirmations or any other diocesan celebrations. In years past we have had about 5,000 people at the SunDome for Adoration and Benediction on Friday night of the event.

Although this is only presented in Spanish, this event will be the kick-off for our own participation in the National Eucharistic Revival or Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional going on all across the United States of America and culminating in a week-long Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July 2024. The cost of that event is \$299 per person to attend the event but that does not include the cost of food, lodging, flights and transportation. Knowing

deacons' wives also will take part in a Day of Reflection in the afternoon, scheduled to be directed by Auxiliary Bishop Frank Schuster of the Seattle Archdiocese.

This annual Mass features both a blessing of the holy oils used in rites throughout the liturgical year and a renewal of promises by the priests. Please pray for the clergy of our diocese as we work together to build the Kingdom of God.

that most of us probably won't be able to afford that national cost, I am encouraging parishes to plan local events in both Spanish and English in their parishes. Already in Yakima the parishes are planning the second annual Corpus Christi procession. Holy Rosary in Moxee has done the same for many years. I have already written to your parish clergy about this initiative. You can read more about this too on the web at: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/> (English) or <https://es.eucharisticrevival.org/> (Spanish). There are rich resources for your family and your fellow parishioners that can revive your own devotion to the Eucharist.

So, enjoy this issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* and know there is more to come, especially regarding the Eucharist. May you have a blessed Lent and may you be ready to celebrate the Sacred Triduum at the end of Holy Week.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Central Washington Catholic

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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.

You're Invited to Upcoming Magnificat Zoom Sessions

The Magnificat Adult Faith Formation program continues its schedule of free classes. Hybrid presentations (online and in a parish setting) again are being offered.

Upcoming presentations include:

Saturday, March 11: Bishop Joseph Tyson will offer training for the Triduum and Easter Vigil from 9-11 a.m. in English, and Father Edgar Quiroga will present the same training in Spanish, from 9 to 11 a.m. Valeria Flores will provide announcements and updates on the program during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Christ the King Parish, 1111 Stevens Drive in Richland.

The English Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

The Spanish Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889>

us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889

Saturday, March 25: Bishop Joseph Tyson will present "Christology" in English, and Fr. Jesús Mariscal will present the same topic in Spanish, from 9-11 a.m. Valeria Flores will provide announcements and updates on the program during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 200 North Dale Road in Moses Lake.

The English Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

The Spanish Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889>

The Magnificat classes scheduled for April and May have been canceled due to scheduling conflicts, and to encourage participation at the Congreso Católico de Evangelización Familiar

at the Yakima SunDome April 28-30, when the Diocese will begin a year of preparation leading to the Tenth National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024.

The annual Synthesis Day for Magnificat is set for Saturday, May 20, at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. The tentative schedule: Mass, 10 to 11 a.m. with Bishop Tyson; a Synod update focused on youth, presented by Father Jesús Mariscal and Bishop Tyson from 11 a.m. to noon; and lunch and raffle prizes from noon to 1 p.m.

Check 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.

Catholic Hispanic Congreso Set for Yakima

The 24th annual Catholic Hispanic Congreso of Evangelization is scheduled for April 28-30 at the Yakima Valley SunDome. One of the largest events in the Pacific Northwest, the Congreso will focus this year on the

Holy Eucharist.

Friday, April 28, the event will open with a concert of gospel music and a Mass of Healing. On Saturday, there will be more gospel music plus talks from guest speakers, closing with a

Holy Hour. On Sunday, April 30, there will be a concluding Mass, celebrated by Bishop Joseph Tyson.

Admission to the Congreso is free. For more details, call (509) 949-5921 or (509) 307-1299.

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How do YOU encourage respect for life?

Why not contact the **Pro-Life Coalition of Central Washington** and request a free speaker for your church or group? Choose from:

- talking points you can use for all ages to defend respect for life;
- advice for teens on navigating the hazards of dating;
- natural family planning (limited speakers);
- someone working with human trafficking victims in our area;
- medical personnel explaining the Catholic stance on euthanasia.

Email us today at prolife@prolifecw.org to request a free speaker on these or other topics.

Stand up for life!

The Pro-Life Coalition of Central Washington is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, 4001 Summitview Ave., Suite 5, #16, Yakima, WA 98908 (509) 985-6248

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Biography of 'The Good Bishop,' Francis Cardinal George, Is Published

By Christine Corbett Conklin

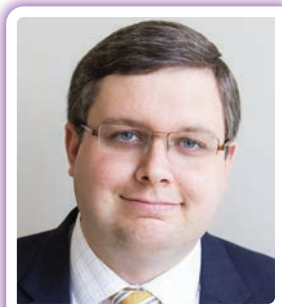
When Bishop Francis George left Yakima in 1996 to become Archbishop of Portland, Oregon, the *Yakima Herald-Republic* hailed the service of "The Good Bishop" in its headline. And that's exactly the person whom author Michael Heinlein discovered when he began writing a book about the man who was to become Francis Cardinal George: a beloved prelate who truly cared and persevered in service despite intense physical suffering.

Heinlein's book, titled, "Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, OMI." Is due to be released on March 6 in paperback with the e-book already available.

In more than 100 interviews since Cardinal George died of cancer in 2015, Heinlein, a former theology teacher and writer/editor from Fort Wayne, Indiana, felt "he got to know Cardinal George on a very intimate level." In Yakima, he was "very beloved," Heinlein

learned. And over and over, in interviews across the country, a picture emerged of a man who "had a good sense of humor, honest as the day was long, and always very clear and convincing in the way he taught the Faith."

Some 30 pages of the book are devoted to George's time in Yakima, where he served as Bishop from 1990 to 1996. "This was the first place he was a bishop," Heinlein noted. During the interviews, "(Cardinal George) was still very much alive in people's imaginations." George was lauded for "how available he was, how kind he was, how accessible he was.... a man with a heart for his people."



Michael Heinlein

He also was "instrumental in overcoming the ethnic divide" here, Heinlein contends. "He was able to achieve unity because both sides respected him so much."

When people talked to George, it felt as though "they were the only thing on his mind." In the years after he left this community, George "talked a lot about Yakima and how much he loved being there."

In a phone conversation with the author, I added one more anecdote to his collection. In 1997, when he had already moved to Chicago to assume his duties as a Cardinal, I called George to ask for prayers. My three-year-old son, Patrick, who was

in treatment at Children's Hospital in Seattle for leukemia, was believed to have pneumonia. Cardinal George returned my call and assured me that he would pray. The next day, we had a little miracle as the doctors declared that my son's lungs suddenly sounded so clear that they weren't even going to do a planned x-ray.

Perhaps Cardinal George had a particular empathy for those with physical maladies. As a 13-year-old, he had contracted polio and was hospitalized for four months, Heinlein explained, noting "how much he suffered and how much pain he was in from the time he was a teenager." His sister "told me that 'there wasn't a day my brother wasn't in terrible pain.'" Polio affected both of his legs, resulting in multiple surgeries through the years and the need to wear a

leg brace. Ironically, because of his physical limitations, he was initially refused entrance into a Chicago seminary.

"He was always a person who pushed forward," noted Heinlein, who

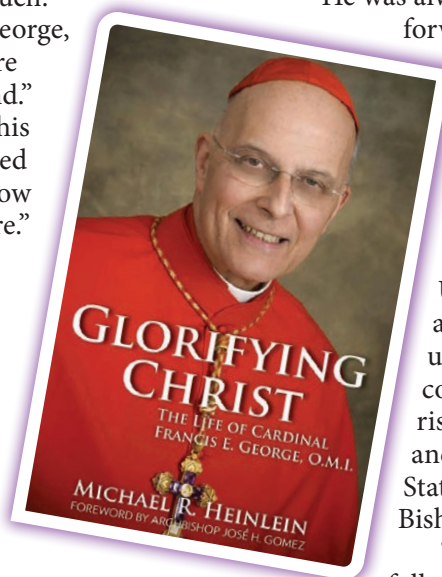
remembers hearing news reports about the Cardinal when he himself was in grade school, and having the chance to talk with him on several occasions at the Catholic University of America and at the basilica on the university's campus. That courage helped George to rise to the rank of Cardinal and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Take up your cross and follow me. Cardinal George did that in a very real and convincing way....His motto was, 'To Christ, be glory in the Church....He offered his life as spiritual worship,'" Heinlein observed.

Even in death, the Cardinal's humility and approachability remain. Instead of being buried in a locked mausoleum where other archbishops are buried, Cardinal George elected to be buried near his parents in a suburban Chicago cemetery.

"Even in death, the pastor remains accessible to his flock, even defined by them. He lies in death as he lived."

Heinlein's book, "Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, OMI," published by Our Sunday Visitor, sells for about \$29.95. It will be available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and osvcatholicbookstore.com, among other outlets.



Move Forward Through Lent in The Spirit of St. Patrick

As we look forward to the feast day of St. Patrick on March 17, it's interesting to note that more than 1,500 years after his death, this great Irish saint still has lessons to teach us, especially during the season of Lent!

Sometimes, we forget "the humanity" of the saints, observed Rev. Michael Ibach, judicial vicar of the Diocese of Yakima and parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish. St. Patrick, for example, was kidnapped and taken to Ireland when he was only about 16 years old. He was put into service as a shepherd for perhaps six years until he managed to escape and ultimately be ordained a priest and then designated a bishop in France.

Patrick developed "a deep love for the people" of Ireland, despite his circumstances living there, and voluntarily returned. "He loved them enough to try to convert

them," Father said. He established dioceses and monasteries. "By the time of his death, most of the island was already converted."

It is said of St. Patrick that "he was persistent. He could be stubborn," Father noted. This same spirit of forgiveness and enthusiasm to spread the Word of God serves as a beautiful role model for us all as we continue through Lent.

Patrick also seemed to keep things simple. "It is probably true that he taught with a shamrock," Father said. The three leaves of the shamrock serve as a good example of the Trinity – three persons in one. "Ireland at that time would have been a very nature-oriented society. Any natural

thing he could have used to teach the Faith, I'm sure he would have."

This Lent, we can follow the example of St. Patrick. For instance, "it would be good if we could use the time to pray for the conversion of children who have wandered away from Church," Father suggested. Offer any fasting or small sacrifices we make for this.

Consider giving a shamrock plant to a family member or friend, as a reminder of the Trinity and how they love us. If you are of Irish descent (or even if you aren't), wear a shamrock as a sign that "I belong to the Trinity that St. Patrick taught," Father added.

Remember St. Patrick who "used the love of Christ to reach out to fellow human beings."

