



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

JULY 2023 *Editor*

Jake Finkbonner, A 'Living Miracle,' Is Honored at St. Kateri Mass

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As the birds sang in the trees and a gentle breeze blew across the grounds of the St. Joseph Mission at the Ahtanum on July 16, a living miracle stood up to address attendees at a special Mass honoring St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

Jake Finkbonner, the young man whose astounding cure in 2006 was determined to be the second miracle needed for Kateri's canonization, radiated happiness and told of his desire to go on to medical school, to serve others.

"Cling to your Faith and pray to God," he advised the congregation.

All those years ago, Finkbonner was believed to be at death's doorstep after a cut on his face, received in a youth basketball game, became infected with "necrotizing fasciitis" (otherwise known as flesh-eating disease). In a drug-induced coma, with tissue from his face being removed and the disease rapidly progressing, there was little earthly hope given for the Ferndale, Washington, resident.

However, when a priest suggested that the family and their friends all pray to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, a young Native American woman whose smallpox scars had miraculously disappeared as she died, everything began to change. A religious sister brought a relic of Kateri which was placed over Jake, and the healing of this young man, who has both Lummi Indian and Hispanic heritage, quickly began. Later

documentation showed an exact match between the time stamps on the electronic requests for prayer and the blood test results that showed an end to disease progression.

In conversation with the *Central Washington Catholic*, Jake reflected that, "In my own Faith, it's a very important reminder of the way God works. It's helped a lot of people... brought them back to the Faith." Sometimes, someone will stop him and ask if he is the one who was cured, while he's thinking, "I just came in for an oil change," he said with a self-deprecating laugh.

"We know that his survival was an absolute miracle," his mother, Elsa Finkbonner, told the assembled crowd. "God is the ultimate decision-maker."

"We were at a really dark place," agreed his father, Donny Finkbonner. "They told us, 'There is no hope. He will not survive the night'... We clung to Faith. We clung to hope. Rely on that hope and Faith!"

Bishop Joseph Tyson, principal celebrant of the Mass, played a major role in the canonization process for St. Kateri. He



Left to right, Bishop Joseph Tyson, Jake, Elsa and Donny Finkbonner celebrated life at the St. Kateri Mass.

served as president of the "rogatory board of inquiry," which spent some six years carefully documenting and investigating the miraculous healing of Jake.

"Faith and science are not opposites," Bishop Tyson told attendees at the Mass, referring to the medical care which Jake received. "We're using

the best human knowledge and wisdom to observe God's action in the world."

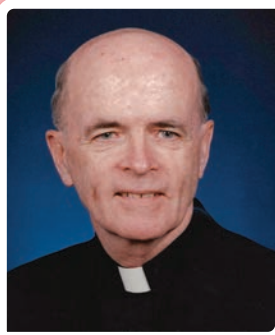
As Jake Finkbonner's story continues to be written, who knows how much more good will come from his life? A recent graduate of Western Washington University, he plans to soon take his MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) so that he can begin medical school.

This day alone, at the Ahtanum Mission Mass plus a picnic hosted by the Knights of Columbus which followed, he touched many hearts and souls with his powerful presence of radiating Faith.

For more details about Jake Finkbonner's story and the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, see Bishop Tyson's column on page 2.

Senior Priest, Father Lawrence Reilly, Dies at Age 84 in Kennewick

Father Lawrence Thomas Reilly, 84, a senior priest of the Diocese of Yakima died July 17 at his home in Kennewick. Father had battled various forms of cancer for more than 30 years, viewing it as a way to be in communion with the sacrifice of the cross of Christ, offered up for others.



Father Lawrence Reilly

Father was born in New York and moved with his family at an early age to Richland, Washington. He graduated in 1958 from both the high school and junior college programs at St. Thomas

Seminary in Kenmore, going on to complete Philosophy studies there.

He also studied Theology at the American College in Louvain, Belgium, later receiving a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from Laval University in Quebec City, Canada.

Father Reilly was ordained a priest by Bishop Joseph Dougherty in 1964 at Christ the King Church in Richland. Through the years, he was associate pastor at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, taught high

school at St. Peter Seminary in Cowiche, and was a lecturer at Gonzaga University in Spokane, also serving as assistant spiritual director at Bishop White Seminary

there. He had also taught for a year at Laval University, served as spiritual director at the American College in Louvain and was a professor of Moral Theology at St. Thomas Seminary.

In 1977, Father became Director of the Office of Theology and Ethics for the Providence Health System, serving until 1993. He also was a consultant to then-Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle and was pastor of St. John Parish in Naches from 1986 to 1987. He would go on to serve at St. Peter Claver Parish in Wapato, St. Mary Parish in White Swan, St. Peter Parish and Retreat Center in Cowiche, St. Henry Parish in Grand Coulee, Immaculate Conception

Continued on page 2

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

Each July around the Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, the first declared Native American saint, we pray with and for the Yakama Nation as well as the many Native American and First Nation communities here and around the world.

July 14 is her feast day in the United States. On Sunday July 16, Jake Finkbonner, along with his parents, Donny and Elsa, came for a special Mass at our St. Joseph Mission at the Ahtanum. Jake, you may recall, was the young boy who was miraculously cured of necrotizing fasciitis in 2006.

I was auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Seattle at the time. Father Tim Sauer, his local pastor, wrote to Archbishop Alexander Brunett, who after consulting with the Holy See, asked me to chair the Rogatory Board of Inquiry regarding a possible miracle.

In the Catholic Church, canonization of a saint normally requires two miracles. In Kateri Tekakwitha's case, the first miracle was recorded by the Jesuit Father Pierre Cholenec, who at her funeral in 1680 noticed that her face was miraculously cured of the smallpox that had disfigured it. That was accepted as the first miracle leading to her beatification by Pope John Paul the Second in 1980.

The second recorded miracle occurred in 2006 to Jake Finkbonner when he was six years old. Jake's mom recalled how Jake had been playing basketball at a Boy's Club game in Bellingham, Washington. Surrounded by the usual scramble of boys beneath the basket, Jake fell down and split his lip on the base of a basketball hoop. The bacteria causing necrotizing fasciitis was most likely on the base of the basketball hoop.

He eventually ended up at Seattle Children's Hospital. Sister Kateri Mitchell, a woman religious from Montana, brought over a first-class relic of then-Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. Family and friends sent out e-mail communications inviting prayers. They told people to pray through her intercession. They indicated the day and time that they would be praying over Jake too.

When those of us working with the investigation of the possible miracle aligned the time stamps on the e-mail communications and records of those we interviewed with the time stamp on the medical charts we could see a very precise alignment. None of the medical personnel had an explanation for the sudden

Senior Priest, Father Lawrence Reilly, Dies *Continued from page 1*

Parish in Roslyn and St. John the Baptist Parish in Cle Elum. He also made presentations in various parishes on topics such as medical ethics.

Granted senior priest status in 2012, Father Reilly was in residence at St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg until 2017, relocating to the Tri-Cities where he served at St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick and on the Diocese Priest Personnel Board. He also served as a



Bishop Joseph Tyson

drop in the C-reactive protein – one of the key indicators suggesting the absence of infection. And no one could explain the coincidence that this dramatic drop occurred at the same time as the intercessory prayer. Using the available medical evidence, we submitted the question of a miracle to the Holy See.

Pope Benedict XVI accepted and affirmed the findings in 2011 of this second miracle. By this time, I had left my assignment as auxiliary bishop in Seattle and had arrived as the new bishop of Yakima. I was honored to concelebrate her October 2012 Canonization Mass in Rome. She was canonized as one of the seven saints for the "New Evangelization." And I was so moved to see Jake with his family bringing up the bread and wine for that special Mass with the Holy Father at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

I was also moved to have Lydia Johnson, a long-time member of the Yakama Nation, with us at this special Mass in Rome. Lydia had also been present in Rome for the Mass of Beatification in 1980. For the Canonization Mass she was in a wheelchair. So I took control from Wapato parishioner Lorena Silva. I was dressed in my magenta choir robes. I skipped the special "bishops' entrance" at the St. Anne gate and was wheeling her in through the regular gate. The Vatican guards saw me and waved me through with Lydia. She got a front row seat! She was so devoted to the story of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and had spent so much time supporting the Kateri prayer circles who prayed for her canoniza-

tion and also prayed for that second miracle for Jake Finkbonner.

vicar for priests. A funeral Mass was held on July 22 at Christ the King Church in Richland. His cremated remains were placed near his parents' graves at Sunset Gardens Cemetery, also in Richland. Memorials can be made to the Seminarian Education Fund of the Diocese of Yakima, P.O. Box 2189, Yakima, WA 98907.

Please keep Father Reilly and all of our departed clergy and religious in your prayers.

Why this devotion? Why this devotion from Lydia? Why this attraction by so many tribes and so many believers? A few details from her life make her so compelling for so many tribes and for so many of us!

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha's personal history begins on the border region between Quebec and the upper part of what is today the state of New York. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was born sometime in the year 1656 and died at the age of 24 in 1680. She was part of the Turtle Clan of the Mohawk First Nation. She was attracted to the Church, to the life of prayer and the story of Jesus Christ, the very face of God whom we receive in all of his humanity and all of his divinity in the Eucharist.

Much of her family died during the waves of smallpox pandemics. The family that did survive wanted to marry her off but she refused. She made her way to Kahnawake, a community the Jesuits founded with Mohawk and Iroquois who wanted to live out their Catholic faith. She was baptized in 1676 and was what we might consider today as a "consecrated virgin."

As you read this current issue of the *Central Washington Catholic*, I hope you find your interior life opening to the richness of the cultures that form our Native American communities here in the Pacific Northwest. I hope our issue gives you a larger sense of how the desire for God so real in the life of so many of our Native American Catholics can be an example for our own deepening of our faith.

Summer time is harvest time. Roots, berries. These were traditional harvests for many of the tribes here in our area. Now we are in harvest for countless soft and hard fruits. I hope the fruit of faith grows during this summer season of growth.

May God richly bless you and deepen your appreciation of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Central Washington Catholic

JULY 2023 • Volume 64 • Issue 7

PUBLISHER

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson

MODERATOR

Monsignor Robert M. Siler

EDITOR

Christine Corbett Conklin

TRANSLATIONS

Indiana Blandon

The Central Washington Catholic (ISSN 0195-1831) is published monthly by the Diocese of Yakima, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908-3493.

Submission schedule: Deadline for the submission of material is at noon on the first day of the month of publication.

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.

How Well Do You Know Your Catholic Faith?

Try the following quiz and see how many questions you can answer correctly. Answers follow at the end:

1. The ornate golden vessel which displays a consecrated host for Adoration is called a (an):

- a. Tabernacle
- b. Ambo
- c. Monstrance
- d. Chasuble

2. The majority of the Church year, not devoted to special seasons, is called:

- a. Ordinary time
- b. Regular time
- c. Standard time
- d. Usual time

3. What's the title given to a priest who renders valuable service or provides a special function in Church governance?

- a. Cleric
- b. Monsignor
- c. Excellency
- d. Judiciary

4. What are the two "Great Commandments"?

- a. Thou shalt not kill and thou shalt serve thy neighbor.
- b. Thou shalt love God with thy whole heart and thy neighbor as thyself.
- c. Thou shalt not kill and thou shalt tithe to the Church.
- d. Thou shalt worship God and respect His holy name.

5. What is a "transitional deacon"?

- a. A married man who serves the Church.
- b. A man studying for priesthood who decides to just remain a deacon.
- c. A man studying for priesthood who has about a year of formation left until ordination.
- d. A man who has decided to leave the seminary, or "transition" out.

6. What is an "indulgence"?

- a. The priest's forgiveness of our sins in Confession.



- b. The granting of a special privilege in status or authority.
- c. A prayer or prayers said as penance in Confession.
- d. Remission of punishment for sins already forgiven, that would be suffered in Purgatory.

7. What is the Holy Day in August which requires Mass attendance?

- a. August 15, the Assumption of Blessed Mother into Heaven.
- b. August 7, the birthday of the Blessed Mother.
- c. August 21, the Baptism of Mary.
- d. August 24, the Annunciation.


Answers: 1) c. Monstrance; 2) a. Ordinary time; 3) b. Monsignor; 4) b. Thou shalt love God with thy whole heart and thy neighbor as thyself; 5) c. A man studying for priesthood who has about a year of formation left until ordination; 6) d. Remission of punishment for sins already forgiven, that would be suffered in Purgatory; 7) a. August 15, the Assumption of Blessed Mother into Heaven.

Black and Indian Mission Collection Set

The weekend of August 12-13, parishes in the Yakima Diocese will take up the 139th annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American,

and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on our generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Our diocese also received \$3,000 in grant funding from this collection last year, benefiting our Native American ministry in the Lower Yakima Valley. For more information about this ministry, visit <https://blackandindianmission.org/>.



William (Bill) Hays, MSFS, RICP®, LUTCF®
Agent, New York Life Insurance Company

**SPECIALIZING IN
RETIREMENT PLANNING,
ESTATE CONSERVATION
WEALTH TRANSFER STRATEGIES**

1425 Lakeside Court | Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 494-7825 | Office
(509) 853-6525 | Cell
wthays@ft.newyorklife.com




www.Birthright.org

Pregnant?

- ♥ We can help
- ♥ There is hope, you are not alone
- ♥ We offer free pregnancy test
- ♥ We will listen to you through one-on-one personal attention

¿Abrumada?

- ♥ Podemos ayudar
- ♥ Hay esperanza, no estás sola
- ♥ Ofrecemos prueba de embarazo gratis
- ♥ Te escucharemos a través de la atención personal individual

♥ **313A S. 11th Ave. Yakima**
509-248-9783

1-800-550-4900

We take your injury personally.™






**ABEYTA
NELSON**

INJURY LAW



READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2022



HERALDREPUBLIC VOTED BEST

abeytanelson.com


509.575.1588

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






Ford trucks have been getting the job done since 1911. Wearing out? Not an option. Overwhelmed? Not on our watch. Ford trucks have always been engineered and built so tough, you'd think it could outlast the next ice age. So that no matter what the job, it'll be there to get it done.



KELLEHER MOTOR COMPANY
"Our family serving your family since 1911"

www.kellehermotors.com 602 N. Pearl Street | Ellensburg | 509-925-1911

Three Diocesan Priests Celebrate Silver Anniversary of Ordination

Three priests of the Diocese of Yakima recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of their ordinations. Fathers Juan Flores, Darell Mitchell and Ricardo Villarreal were recognized in a Mass at St. Paul Cathedral on June 29, followed by a reception at the parish Assembly Place.

Bishop Joseph Tyson was principal celebrant for the Mass.

Father Flores was born in Union de San Antonio, Jalisco, Mexico. After attending seminary in Jalisco, he studied at Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Oregon. He was ordained on July 11, 1998 by Bishop Carlos Sevilla, S.J., in Jalisco. His priestly assignments have included service at St. Paul Cathedral, Yakima; St. Francis Xavier Church in



Left to right, Fathers Juan Flores, Darell Mitchell and Ricardo Villarreal celebrated their 25th anniversary of ordination.

Zillah; and Christ the King Church, Richland. He also has served on the Diocesan Committee for RCIA and as Vocation Director for the Diocese.

Father Mitchell was born in Benton, Kentucky. After receiving a B.A. degree from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., he studied at Mount Angel Seminary. He was ordained on June 26, 1998, with Father Villarreal, by Bishop Carlos Sevilla, S.J., at St. Paul Cathedral. Around the Diocese, he has served at Holy Fam-

ily Church, Yakima; Christ the King Church, Richland; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Selah; St. Paul Cathedral, Yakima; and St. Joseph Church, Kennewick. After assisting at the Yakima diocesan Pastoral Center, he has been the Director of Calvary Cemetery, Yakima, since 2011.

Father Villarreal was born in Yakima, Washington. After graduating from Eisenhower High School, he attended seminary at Mount Angel. Father was ordained on June 26, 1998, with Father Mitchell, by Bishop Carlos Sevilla, S.J., at St. Paul Cathedral. His priestly assignments have taken him from St. Joseph Church, Wenatchee; to St. Joseph Church, Sunnyside; St. Francis Xavier Church, Cashmere; Our Lady of the Snows Church, Leavenworth; St. Mary's Church, Mansfield; St. Anne's Church, Bridgeport; St. Francis de Sales Church, Chelan; Holy Redeemer Church, Yakima; and now, to St. Joseph Church, Kennewick.

Thank you to these three servants of God for their years of devoted service to the people of the Diocese of Yakima. Please keep them in your prayers.

Diocesan Clergy and Parishioners Minister to Migrants Each Summer

Priests, deacons and parish volunteers annually lead the Diocesan Migrant Ministry to serve workers in Central Washington. The ministry reaches out to migrants in Yakima, Monitor, Malaga, and Cashmere, during the summer months, and in Yakima through mid-November.

Catechesis for adults and children, sacramental preparation, godparent preparation, and Bible classes are offered to those who seek it. In Monitor, Malaga, and Cashmere, Mass is offered weekly on Wednesday evenings. Deacon Carlos Luna, his wife Maria Luna, and volunteers adopted Wenatchee River County Park (Farmworkers Housing) in Monitor. Father Miguel Gonzalez and Our Lady of Assumption volunteers adopted Migrant Camp Brender Creek

in Cashmere. Deacon Alfredo Velazquez and volunteers from St. Joseph Wenatchee adopted Migrant Camp Sage Bluff in Malaga.

Father Jesus Mariscal, seminarians, and volunteers from St. Paul Cathedral adopted Fairbridge Hotel in Yakima, which houses about 1,200 H2-A workers. In Yakima, services are offered Monday-Sunday. Catechesis is offered on Mondays, ESL classes on Tuesdays, Mass on Wednesdays, Informational Sessions



Father Jesus Mariscal helped out in the orchard.

on Thursdays, Fraternity Nights on Fridays, and Mass on Sundays. Each class has drawn 20 to 30 migrants, with about 50 for Mass. After the migrants arrive back at the hotel each day from work, they are personally invited

by a seminarian or Father Mariscal to join the day's events.

To learn more or volunteer at any of these locations, please get in touch with Ana Contreras at (509) 965-7117 ext. 305 or by emailing her at ana.contreras@yakimadiocese.net.

Cor Christi Camp Celebrates Faith

One hundred youth, ages 10 to 18, attended Cor Christi Catholic youth camp, June 18-23 near Ellensburg. An evening Eucharistic procession, led by Father Teodulo Taneo of Waterville, was a highlight.

