CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

OCTOBER 2023 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar

Catechists Invited to Reunion

All catechists of the Diocese of Yakima are invited to join in a Virtual Reunion to be presented on Zoom from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 8.

Maria Elena Ponce and Emma Mendoza will present information on the Ministry of Catechists (lesson planning) at this time.

The Zoom access code is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82656274445. For more information, contact Valeria Flores at (509) 965-7117 or valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.org.

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 21. 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. 12th Avenue, Yakima.

Check the Cathedral website and Facebook pages for livestream options. All are welcome to join in this Eucharistic celebration. For more information, contact parish@stpaulyakima.org or (509) 575-3713.

Give Thanks on November 23

With all of the tragedy we hear of in the world today, let us pause and give thanks for the many blessings we have in the United States of America. On November 23, Thanksgiving Day, why not plan to take the whole family to Mass? Later in the day, amidst the TV parades and football, let's find another minute for a prayer of gratitude to God.

In addition, Thanksgiving is a perfect time to reach out to others who may be less fortunate. Invite one or two people to join you for dinner. Make a donation to a favorite charity which helps those who are hungry or sick or caught in the midst of a war zone. Phone a relative or friend with whom you haven't spoken in a while.

Life is not perfect. Everyone has trials. However, "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Annual Appeal Focuses On Building 'Young Church'

By Alma Benitez

Once a year, Bishop Tyson asks 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 for your pledge envelope for the 2024 ACA (cycle Nov. 1, 2023, to Oct. 31, 2024). ACA pledge weekend begins November 4 and 5. Envelopes can be picked up at your local parish. Another quick way to donate is to scan the QR code that instantly redirects the user to the ACA donation page.

This year, Bishop Tyson has chosen "*Building the Young Church*" as the theme for our appeal because engaging our youth and bringing them into active leadership with their Church communities is crucial. In the closing Mass of World Youth Day on August 6, 2023, Pope Francis said, *"Don't be afraid, Jesus knows the hearts of each of you, the successes and failures;*

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Father Keolker Celebrates 60 Years of Priesthood

Clergy gathered to honor Father Riccardo (Richard) Keolker at an anniversary Mass at St. Joseph Church, Kennewick, followed by a reception.

Father Riccardo (Richard) Keolker, a senior priest of the Diocese of Yakima, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination, October 11. Parishioners and friends gathered for a Mass at his home parish, St. Joseph in Kennewick, followed by a reception.

Over the years, Father Keolker has served parishes in Yakima, Wapato, Cashmere and Leavenworth. He has taught English, Latin and Religion to high school students. He also taught and provided spiritual direction in seminaries, especially Mount Angel in Oregon. Upon his return to Yakima, he assisted the Office of Religious Education in creation of the Deacon Formation Program and the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Currently, he is a senior priest in residence at St. Joseph, Kennewick.

We appreciate Father Keolker, his pastoral zeal, lengthy service and also his devotion to the color yellow! Please keep him and all of our clergy and religious in your prayers.

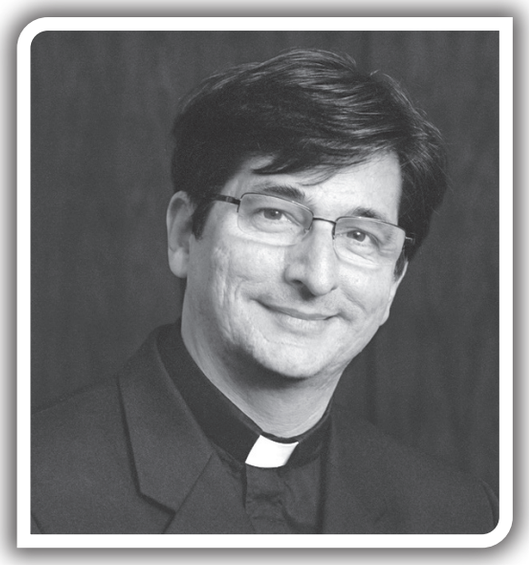
A Message from Bishop Tyson…

Dear Friends:

Fall is in the air with the first hints of snow in the Cascades. With the change of season around us, so too we pass through our seasons of faith thanks to the graced presence of Jesus Christ in our lives.

This current issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* captures peak moments of this season. I was so privileged to be a co-consecrating bishop for Bishop Felipe Pulido as he begins his ministry as one of the three auxiliary bishops in San Diego. Cardinal Robert McElroy invited me to come a few days early for the end of their San Diego Priests Retreat. During Evening Prayer, we had a blessing of the miters and crosiers that would be presented to the two new bishops. There also was a kind of "rite of reception" where all the priests of the Diocese exchanged peace with them. It was comforting for me to see the warm embrace of new brothers for Bishop Felipe.

I could see a similar embrace as Father Richard Keolker celebrates his 60th anniversary of ordination. He gave a gracious message October 14 as he received recognition at our annual Celebration of Faith dinner sponsored by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation. The Second Vatican Council was a deep spiritual and pastoral point of reference for him as a seminarian and a young priest. He recalled being able to sneak into the council and see some of the proceedings. His enthusiasm for a Church in mission to the surrounding world is still as fresh and vibrant today as it was when he witnessed a slice of the Second Vatican Council.



Bishop Joseph Tyson

Renewal might be the best way to see our own ongoing efforts for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults tied to the Dallas Charter and its Essential Norms. The blessing of our new memorial to victims of sexual abuse at Calvary Cemetery in Yakima on All Souls Day also aligns to our special prayers for the dead in the month of November.

We want to find ways to remember the harm done to victims of sexual abuse and the way faith was so mortally compromised, especially by trusted clergy and laity who used their positions of authority to hurt the young and the vulnerable. We need to renew and redouble our efforts ensuring that as we pass on the Faith in our parishes and schools, we also remain vigilant to prevent abuse of the young and the vulnerable, and to bring healing to those who have been hurt.

I want to close by thanking you for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your donations support our faith formation outreach on a diocesan level, our training of volunteers in vigilance with regard to sexual abuse of minors, much of our support for our clergy – active and retired – as well as the support and professional development of our many lay people who serve in our parishes and schools.

Your donations help make possible the seasons of service so central to the Church that Jesus Christ outlined for us and that we live out daily in this Diocese. May our gifts grow into an abundant fall harvest of faith with ever more people finding friendship with Jesus Christ and, we, His Church.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Support for Initiative 2081 Approved

The Bishops of Washington State have approved support for Initiative 2081, which calls for establishing a "bill of rights" for parents of children in public schools.

This would include the right to review medical and health records, to receive prior notification when medical services are offered, to receive reassurance that there would not be discrimination against a child based on sincerely held religious beliefs, to be notified if a child is taken or removed from a school campus and to opt out of activities on the topic of sexual activity.

To obtain petitions for Initiative 2081, email **info@fpiw.org** or call (425) 608-0242. Petitions should then be returned to: Family Policy Institute of Washington, P.O. Box 975, Lynnwood, WA 98046, by December 15, 2023.

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.

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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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Annual Appeal Focuses On Building 'Young Church' Continued from page 1

He knows your hearts." We, too, are called to not be afraid and, together with the youth (our present and future) in Central Washington, build the young Church!

Our 2024 ACA diocesan goal is to raise $1.8 million. By giving to the ACA, you engage 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 2023 ACA year (cycle Nov. 1, 2022, to Oct. 31, 2023), $348,718 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 using the pledge card, online at www.yakimadiocese.org, or by scanning the code.

Catholic Foundation Holds Its Annual Celebration of Faith Continued from page 4

youth group coordinator at Holy Family Parish, who led a group of 18 adults and youth to Lisbon, Portugal, earlier this year. She believes that youth do not need to wait until they become adults to make a difference in the world and in the Church.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Community Award was presented to **John Riel**, owner of Burrows Tractor in Yakima. He has served on the St. Joseph Marquette School parent board, St. Martin's University Board of Trustees and as a founding member of La Salle High School. Currently, he is a board member for the Sister Rebecca Berghoff Foundation, Mercy Foundation, La Salle Foundation and Holy Rosary Cemetery Foundation. He was past president and is a current advisor for the Central Washington Catholic Foundation.

St. John Baptist De La Salle Educator Awards were presented to **Catherine Valiant** and **Gregg Pleger**. Valiant been a teacher at St. Joseph in Kennewick for the past 12 years. She also has helped with Student Council, Science Olympiad, the Accreditation team, Principal search committee and the school Leadership Team. Pleger has served as Principal of St. Joseph Marquette for 23 years, the first lay principal of the school and longest consecutive lay principal of the Diocese. He has been a leader in extensive remodeling, building of a new gym and continuing to grow the school's mission to build community.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the St. Joseph Marquette Advanced Band and Honor Choir, both led by Sheila Wilson.

News
from Around the Diocese

Memorial Placed for Sexual Abuse Victims and Survivors

Bishop Joseph Tyson will commend victims and survivors of sexual abuse to the intercession of Saint Maria Goretti November 2 during a brief 12:30 p.m. dedication ceremony at Calvary Cemetery, 1405 S. 24th Avenue, in Yakima.

Born in Italy in 1890, Maria Goretti was 11 years old when she refused the advances of an older farmhand, Alessandro Serenelli. He then stabbed her repeatedly. She died of her wounds in a hospital several days later, after forgiving her attacker and expressing her wish that he repent. He underwent a profound conversion while serving a 30-year prison sentence, which included a vision of the saint offering him a gift of lilies that burst into flame. Serenelli was present at her canonization Mass in 1950.

The new granite memorial includes an icon of the saint, and a prayer for healing for all victims of abuse in the Diocese of Yakima, the United States, and throughout the world. While not specifically addressing abuse by clergy, its placement in the Priests Plot at Calvary acknowledges the scandal of abuse in the Catholic Church and the loss of faith that has accompanied it.

"As we join our prayers to those of St. Maria Goretti for victims and survivors of abuse, may we redouble our efforts to make our parishes and schools safe places for all to gather, particularly the young and the vulnerable," said Bishop Joseph Tyson.

Cursillo Can Re-Ignite Your Faith

Interested in re-igniting your Faith? Want to develop a better relationship with Christ?

Cursillo is an encounter with self, Christ, and others. It is a short course in our Catholic Faith. Cursillo offers a simple method to seek and develop a Christian: Spirituality, Mentality, Activity and Community.

The 2024 weekend for men will be April 4–7 and the women's weekend will be April 11-14, both at Our Lady of Fatima parish's Fatima Center in Moses Lake.

If are interested in attending or if you have any questions about Cursillo, call Luann Anderson at (509) 731-6975 for the women's weekend or Dan Sisk at (509) 942-4085 for the men's weekend.

Bishop Felipe Pulido Consecrated in San Diego September 28

Completing a journey that began with his appointment by Pope Francis June 6, the Yakima Diocese's Father Felipe Pulido was consecrated an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Diego September 28, along with San Diego's Father Michael Pham.

Family and friends greeted Bishop Felipe Pulido

The two new bishops join auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano in assisting Cardinal Robert McElroy in his work of shepherding nearly 1.4 million Catholics, about 40 percent of the total population of the Diocese. Their ministry will include Confirmations, diocesan liturgies and pastoral administration.

The Mass, celebrated at St. Therese of Carmel Church, was attended by about 1,100 people, with thousands more participating via livestream. In remarks at the end of the Mass, Bishop Pulido said, "On this day of my episcopacy ordination, in this beautiful church, I present myself to you – poor and weak, but with so much joy in my heart."

"I'm most grateful for the presence of so many faithful Catholics from here in San Diego Diocese who are present today," added Bishop Pulido, who was ordained a priest in Yakima 21 years ago. "My thanks to God and to all of you, and God bless," he said.

Yakima Bishop Joseph Tyson was a co-consecrating bishop, as was Bishop John P. Dolan of Phoenix, a former San Diego auxiliary bishop. In total, there were more than 30 bishops and 150 concelebrating priests in attendance, including more than a dozen from the Yakima Diocese.

Catholic Foundation Holds Its Annual Celebration of Faith

About 300 people gathered on October 14 at the new gymnasium of St. Joseph Marquette School in Yakima for the annual Celebration of Faith fundraiser for the Central Washington Catholic Foundation.

Kristin Moore, director of marketing and enrollment for the Archdiocese of Seattle, was master of ceremonies.

A highlight of the evening was presentation of six Champions of Catholic Education Awards to individuals in various walks of life. The Outstanding Leadership Award went to **Father Richard Keolker**, who recently celebrated 60 years of priesthood (see related story). Father Keolker has served parishes in Yakima, Wapato, Cashmere and Leavenworth, in addition to teaching and providing spiritual direction at seminaries including Mount Angel. He has helped create the Deacon Formation Program and Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Two Religious Education Awards were presented, to **Kelly Sauer** and **Carlene Markfelder**. Sauer, who began teaching preschool CCD when she was in eighth grade, went on to teach second grade at St. Paul Cathedral School,

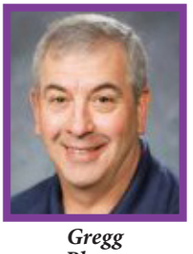
Father Richard Keolker

John Riel

Kelly Sauer

Catherine Valiant

Carlene Markfelder



Gregg Pleger

serve as religious education director at St. Mary Parish, and become a substitute teacher at St. Joseph Marquette and a volunteer for student retreats and teacher in-service. Markfelder is the

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