



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

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MARCH 2015
Newsletter

Preparation for Easter: It's A Time to Focus on The Gift of Our Salvation

By Christine Corbett Conklin

It's fine to be thinking about Easter clothes, candy for the kids, and even that annual egg hunt in the park.

However, let's not forget that this coming Holy Week is the most sacred week of the church year, full of rich meaning and devotions in our Catholic Faith, suggests Monsignor John Ecker, Vicar General for the Diocese of Yakima and pastor of St. Paul Cathedral.

"Holy Week (which begins on Palm Sunday, March 29) contains the major salvific action of Christ coming to earth. All of the commemorations are part of the one mystery of Christ saving us – the totality of Christ becoming man, suffering and dying for us," Monsignor Ecker said.

The Cathedral, which is regarded as the "mother church" of the Diocese, will be the setting for numerous special Holy Week observances, with Bishop Joseph Tyson serving as principal celebrant on several occasions. Parishes throughout the Diocese also will mark this sacred week with local commemorations including Stations of the Cross.

On Palm Sunday, which recalls Christ's triumphant procession into Jerusalem, Holy Week begins in earnest, Monsignor Ecker explained. At the Cathedral, there will be a solemn procession into church prior to the 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Masses, with blessing and distribution of palms.

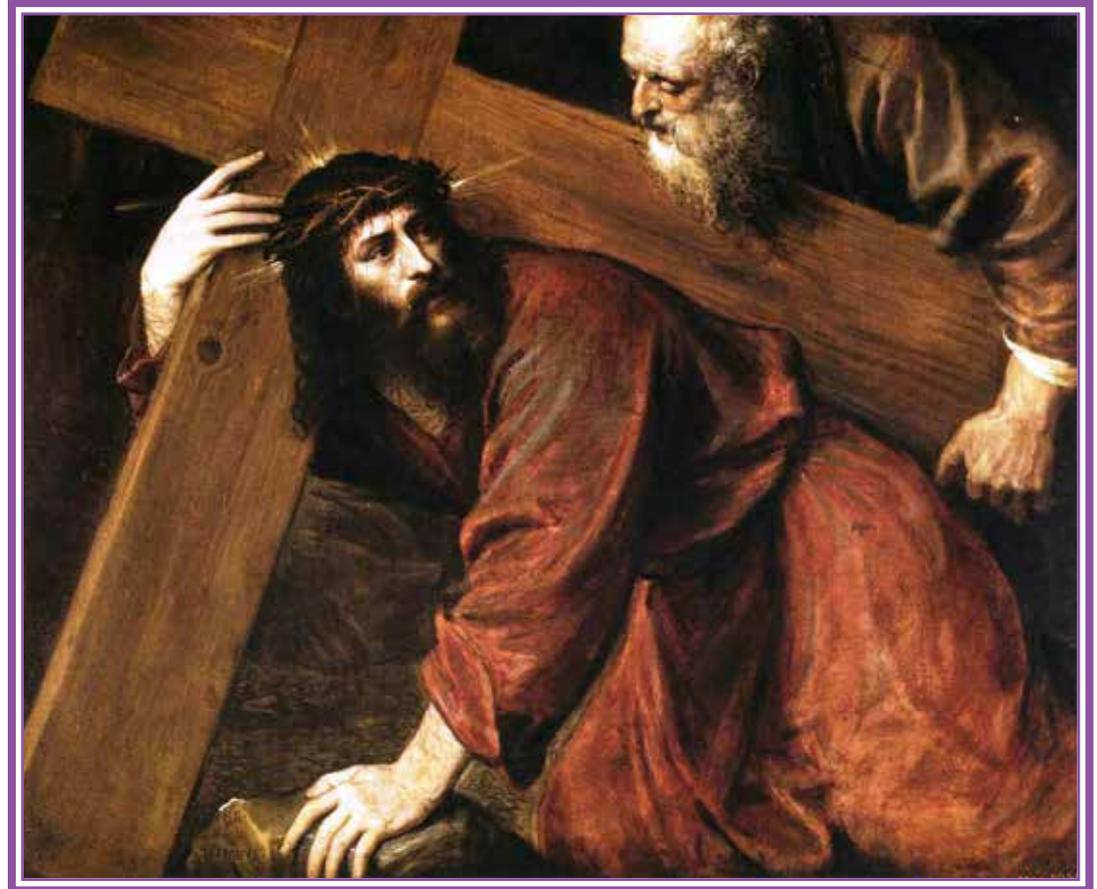
Holy Thursday is the next major commemoration, with the Mass of the Last Supper beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral. Bishop Tyson will be the principal celebrant.

"This Mass recalls the institution of the priesthood and the Eucharist – the Last Supper," Monsignor Ecker said. The Mass will include washing of the feet of numerous individuals, and will be followed by a procession to the Cathedral chapel where there will be the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration until 10 p.m.

Then, we arrive at Good Friday, the solemn day on which we recall the passion and death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Catholic Stewardship Conference Scheduled for June in Kennewick

"Called, Transformed and Sent to Serve" is the theme for the 10th Northwest Regional Catholic Stewardship Conference scheduled for June 26 and 27 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Kennewick.



Titian's *Carrying of the Cross* portrays the suffering which Christ endured for our salvation.

At the Cathedral, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Bishop Tyson will preside over an observance focusing on how Christ purchased our salvation through his suffering and death. The Liturgy of the Word will be followed by prayers of intercession, veneration of the cross and distribution of Holy Communion.

Finally, on Holy Saturday, the Mass of the Resurrection is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. at the Cathedral, with Bishop Tyson as principal celebrant. This rite will begin with blessing of the fire, preparation of the Easter candle and reading of the Easter proclamation, Monsignor Ecker said.

Then, following Old Testament readings that "synthesize the history of salvation," blessing

of the baptismal water and font, administration of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, and renewal of the congregation's baptismal promises, the Mass of the Resurrection will begin.

On the most sacred and joyful day of the year, Easter Sunday, Masses will be offered at 7, 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Cathedral.

"All of the other Easter preparations (such as special clothes and Easter baskets) are fine. They're all subservient, though, to the purpose of Easter: the focus on the resurrection of Christ!" Monsignor Ecker suggested.

For more details on Holy Week observances in your parish, please check your parish bulletin or website.

This event, which is open to the public, will focus on teaching the essentials of Catholic stewardship, covering everything from implementing and budgeting for stewardship, to hospitality, finding individual strengths,

pastoral leadership, spirituality and social media. There will be forums and roundtable discussions for parishes of all sizes.

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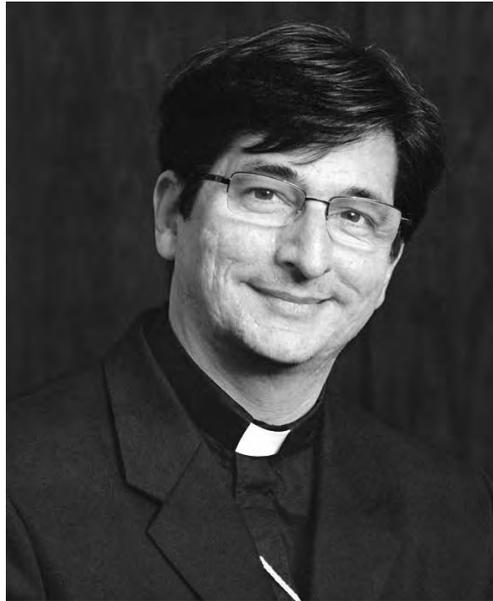
A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

Once again, we have another faith-filled lineup of news and features about the life of the Catholic Church here in Central Washington. There is one particular item I want to draw to your attention. That is the news item about our new PREPARES coordinator for the Diocese of Yakima: Syndee Saucedo Cavazos.

PREPARES, as you recall from previous issues, is an initiative of the Catholic bishops here in Washington State, in partnership with the Catholic Charities agencies in our three dioceses. We want to promote a nurturing and positive response for pregnant women, their children, the fathers, and their extended families for the first five years of the child's life.

Syndee has already been deeply involved with pregnancy and parenting support for Catholic Family and Child Service in the Tri-Cities. She's also a parishioner attending Mass at St. Joseph in Kennewick. She will now be threading out these services across the Diocese. She'll start by getting to know what's already occurring in our local parishes as well as with the wider community of churches and organizations with whom we



Bishop Joseph Tyson

might be able to collaborate.

I'm asking our pastors – especially the deans of regions in the Diocese of Yakima – to make sure they welcome her to meetings and gatherings so we can all work together to

ensure that wrap-around services are available within a 30-mile radius of every woman in need.

The key point for the Washington State bishops is that we have a response that is clearly branded from the Catholic Church and provides a positive pathway for living out the Church's teachings on the gift of life that begins at conception.

I'm grateful to my brother bishops across the state for this wonderful and – nationally speaking – very unique initiative. I'm grateful to be spearheading this effort on behalf of the Washington State bishops as I work with Charities staff and Knights of Columbus leadership across the state. Please pray for Syndee as she starts this new phase of her ministry with us and please pray that our parishes will come together and unite around this very focused initiative in terms of time, treasure and talent.

Many prayers and blessings to everyone!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Catholic Stewardship Conference Scheduled for June *Continued from page 1*

Jesús Mariscal, a seminarian with the Diocese of Yakima, who attended a regional stewardship conference in Vancouver, Washington, in 2013, believes that this conference format offers value for Catholic people from all walks of life.

"I found it to be a great source to learn more about stewardship and about the universality of the Catholic Church," Mariscal said. "Judging from this conference, I can say that stewardship conferences are not only extremely helpful for priests and stewardship directors, but also for anybody who wants to improve their administration of their God-given gifts."

Mariscal added, "One of the many and most basic things that I learned is that stewardship is more than financial administration, but also and most importantly about intentionally being faithful disciples of Christ... However, in order to get to the point of desiring to be a disciple of Christ, one has to first understand and love the Gospel. Which means that good stewardship begins with evangelization of the parishes and community."

At the upcoming stewardship conference, keynote addresses will be presented by Bishop Joseph Tyson; Bishop Liam Cary of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon; and Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad of the Diocese of Spokane. Other speakers and presenters will include Father Daniel Barnett, Joe Citro, Sherry Hayes-Peirce, Michael Murphy, Jane Rutter, Doug Tooke and Father Leo Walsh.

To meet the interests of attendees, the conference will include four unique "tracks". There will be a Spanish Language track, exploring how to reach out to Hispanic communities. A track on Stewardship Essentials will focus on "how to do it right the first time". Another track will explore Moving Forward in the Parish, and "getting where you want to be". The fourth track, called Engaged Communities, will look at how to involve everyone possible.

The registration fee for both days of the stewardship conference is \$75; Friday only, \$50; and Saturday only, \$30. To register, or to learn more about times and schedules for individual sessions, visit yakimadiocese.org/stewardship-conference.

Sponsors for the event include Greater Mission, Liturgical Publications, My Parish App and Our Sunday Visitor

Area Coordinator Named for PREPARES Program

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"The bishops want to make sure that every child and family have supportive services within 30 miles of each parish," she explained. "PREPARES will not duplicate any excellent services that already exist in a community, but rather build a bridge to them."

Work is planned in "leadership development" within the parishes, recruiting and training volunteers to help in their own communities. It is hoped that every parish will ultimately have a PREPARES liaison person who may be contacted, Cavazos said.

For more information on the PREPARES program, visit www.preparesforlife.org or contact Cavazos at (509) 946-4645 or syndee@preparesforlife.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

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Dan Fortier Retires from Central Washington Catholic Foundation

After four years of service, Dan Fortier is stepping down from his post as Executive Director of the Central Washington Catholic Foundation.

May 31 is the retirement date for this Yakima native whose previous career spanned 40 years in the insurance industry. Fortier is also credited with helping to start the Foundation, and having served as president and vice president of the Board of Trustees.

Under Fortier's leadership, the Foundation developed the tuition assistance program (TAP) for students in the Foundation's service area, awarding more than \$300,000 since the program's inception in 2012. The Foundation also initiated the parish religious education program (PREP) with grants totaling \$110,000 and college scholarships worth \$12,000 per year.

"It's a marvelous mission to provide resources to teach our children about Jesus and the Church," he observed.

As the search begins for a new Executive Director for the Foundation, Fortier says that he is looking forward to having more time to spend with his wife, Karen, their three children and five grandchildren, plus enjoying leisure activities including hiking, golfing, biking and travel.

"I'm going to miss all of the people, the connections with so many Catholics – supporters, donors and those we've helped," he said. "It's been richly rewarding in many ways."

We wish Dan Fortier many blessings in the years ahead.



Dan Fortier

Area Coordinator Named for PREPARES Program

Syndee Saucedo Cavazos, a program manager with Catholic Family and Child Service in Richland, has been named Area Coordinator for the PREPARES program in the Diocese of Yakima.

Cavazos has 14 years experience in human services, ranging from program development to advocacy and emergency services for vulnerable populations including immigrants, victims of domestic violence, women with unplanned pregnancies, and other families facing major issues in their lives.

Since she assumed her new title on January 1, Cavazos has been doing "initial groundwork" for the ambitious PREPARES program which seeks to assist pregnant women and their families up to the child's fifth birthday. The program is an initiative of the three Catholic bishops of Washington State and spans the Seattle, Yakima and Spokane dioceses.

In our area, this first phase of the program involves contacting all of the parishes in the Diocese to determine what programs and services each parish has in place now – and "what each parish wants to do in the future". There also are plans to "engage the larger network" of community services including pregnancy resource centers and other churches that "share our vision," Cavazos said.



Syndee Saucedo Cavazos

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Farewell Event Set for Brothers

If you'd like to say farewell to the De La Salle Christian Brothers as they prepare to leave Yakima for new assignments, you'll have the opportunity on Thursday, April 16.

That day, there will be a 1:30 p.m. community Mass followed by a reception honoring the Brothers, both in the Student Commons building at La Salle High School, 3000 Lightning Way. The Brothers have served in Yakima since 1997, helping to found, administer and teach at La Salle.

For additional details, call (509) 225-2900.

Sister Karin Dufault Receives Award

Sister Karin Dufault, S.P., a native of the Yakima Valley who serves as Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Providence international community in Montreal, Canada, has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Seattle Business magazine.



Sister Karin Dufault

Sister Karin was one of 19 honorees identified by the magazine as "transforming medicine". She was celebrated for her work in serving the poor and vulnerable in Pacific Northwest communities and nationally for more than 55 years.

Sister has served in key leadership roles for Providence Health System, now Providence Health & Services. Among her responsibilities, she worked as a nurse, hospital administrator for St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Yakima from 1987-91, vice president of mission leadership, chairperson of the board of directors, and acting president and CEO. She has had a particular interest in raising awareness and understanding of compassionate palliative and end-of-life care.

Let Us Know About Your Event

We'd love to hear what's happening in your parish or Catholic organization!

If you have a special event, fundraiser or celebration planned, let the Central Washington Catholic moderator know what's going on.

Just email robertsiler@yakimadiocese.net or send written information to: Central Washington Catholic, c/o Diocese of Yakima, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908. Be sure to include a description of the event, date, time and location, plus notation of whether there is an admission fee and whether the event is open to the general public. The deadline is the first day of the month of publication.

It's easy, it's free and it's a great way to let people throughout the Diocese of Yakima know what you have planned.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Royal City: Caring for God's Children

Like their patron saint who is known for safeguarding those in need, the parish of St. Michael the Archangel in Royal City reaches out to help God's children in every way possible.

The church building itself may not be grand. Built in the 1960s, some describe it as more of a "multi-purpose building." In fact, parishioners are raising funds in hopes of building a new church one day. However, the beauty of this parish transcends mere wood and concrete to shine forth in the hearts and souls of the people of this rural, farming community.

"Once you come inside, you have a beautiful place to worship," observed Joel Watkins, a parishioner for more than 50 years who serves on both the parish council and finance committee. "We're a unique parish. We just come together. It's very informal, but we get things done that need to be done. It's a close community."

In many ways, St. Michael the Archangel is a missionary community, suggests its pastor of 15 years, Father José de Jesús Ramírez Curiel. He himself leads the Marriage Encounter program for the Diocese, traveling to various communities to help strengthen marriages.

Deacon Francisco (Paco) Martínez heads the Cursillo program for the Diocese. And, among some 385 registered families in the parish, you'll find the Mother Teresa of Calcutta group that helps with special financial needs, the Guadalupanas, religious education coordinators, local food bank managers, choir members, a committee for the annual September fiesta fundraiser and countless others who step forward as needed, Father says.

Many members of this community have a heart for those who are suffering or losing their way, having experienced hardship themselves. Some, including Father Ramírez, have lost family members through violence in Mexico.

"They're (parish members are) my family," he said. "They have been supporting me."

In turn, Father and other parish members reach out to teenagers who could be in danger of falling under negative influences, to point out a positive path in life.

"Father is so caring. He'll help anybody who comes over and needs anything," said Anna Valle, a parishioner since 1978 who serves as secretary and bookkeeper for the parish.

"We have a lot of people (parishioners) who are very humble," she added. "They feel for the other person. They'd take food off their own table to share."

And young parishioners seem to be picking up on the positive example which this church community sets.

"I think that the kids are more involved with their Faith. They're understanding their Faith now," said Mary Helen Vasquez, a parishioner for more than 50 years who has headed the religious education program for the parish for many years.

"I tell them, 'You need to go to church as a family,'" she said. "The kids are the ones who are gluing us together and keeping us together."

Dorothy Lee, who with her husband, Patrick, has been a member of St. Michael the Archangel from the beginning, has seen many changes in the parish over time. However, the spirit of "family" continues, she said.

Lee recalled how, before St. Michael became a parish and the church was built, local Catholics used to gather at "Murphy's Cathedral," a building she describes as a "barracks" on farm land owned by the Murphy family. A priest came from Quincy to celebrate Mass, she said.

In more recent years, pastors for St. Michael have included Fathers William Byron; Michael Simpson; José Peláez; Charlie Roy; Robert Shields; Michael Monaghan; Ronald Patnode; Anthony King; Robert Saenz, S.J.; John Turula, S.J.; Francisco Hernández; Salomón Covarrubias Piña; and now, Father Ramírez.

Today, Dorothy and Patrick Lee, whose 10 children were all baptized and attended religious education classes in the parish, run the Royal City Food Bank, helping an average of about 100 families per week, and 150-170 families per week in the winter months.

"As the need arises, it seems as though there's always someone there who says, 'Okay, we need to get this done,'" Watkins concluded. "We decided that we need to work together."



St. Michael the Archangel Church: a simple building that's filled with heart.



Father Ramírez leads his parish outreach to those in need.