



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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AUGUST 2016 *Newsletter*

World Youth Day: Pilgrims Glimpse the Universal Catholic Church

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Two groups of pilgrims from the Diocese of Yakima went on a journey of faith last month to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.

Forty-nine participants led by Father Lalo Barragan of St. Joseph Parish in Yakima and 31 individuals led by Aaron Pohlen of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick made the pilgrimage. Both groups came away newly inspired by the beauty of our universal Catholic Church.

“It was amazing to see the young and adults all together, stepping up and professing their Faith,” observed Father Barragan, who is parochial vicar of his parish.

Prior to the July 25-31 World Youth Day in Krakow, attended by an estimated 1.5-2 million people, Father Barragan’s group spent several days in the Polish town of Knurów. There, they stayed with host families, to better learn about the culture and how the local people beautifully live their Faith.

“Even though we don’t speak the same verbal language, we all speak the language of hope, love and faith and that’s what unites us,” Father noted.

“It was very touching to see some people sitting and praying and kneeling for adora-



Photo courtesy of Christina Mejia

The diocesan group visited the cathedral in the city of Knurów prior to attending World Youth Day.

without any hesitation,” she said. “The people are so close to God ... it increased my belief in my Catholic Faith.”

The Kennewick contingent, who spent several days in Rome prior to World Youth Day, visited the four major basilicas, the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum. Father Tomas Vidal, who accompanied the group, even had the opportunity to celebrate Mass for them in the catacombs of Rome.

Arriving in Krakow, there were “seas of people, waves of people” who’d come from throughout the world, Father Barragan said.

At the opening day Mass, as people from many cultures exchanged the sign of peace, “it dawned on me that while other generations have not succeeded in achieving peace, it is possible,” suggested Pohlen, the youth minister at St. Joseph in Kennewick.

As the week progressed, there were talks, concerts and religious observances, leading up to the concluding Mass celebrated by Pope Francis.

Once the Pope flew into Krakow, security greatly increased, with police, military personnel, helicopters and drones in evidence, said Christina Mejia, a youth minister for Our Lady of Fatima Church in Moses Lake who traveled with Father Barragan’s group. Yet, the pilgrims agreed that they were not fearful of terrorism.

Mejia said she got just “a fleeting glimpse” of the Pope as he passed by in a vehicle – viewed between the upraised arms

of the crowd as they took pictures with their mobile devices. The Pope’s message at Mass was about “solidarity in the Church,” joining together regardless of divisions between countries and differing ethnic backgrounds, she said.

And the crowd seemed to be living out that message, uniting “in brotherly love,” she observed.

The inspiring atmosphere in Krakow helped Melissa Montenegro, middle school faith formation coordinator for Christ the King Church in Richland, to set positive priorities, she said.

“It’s not about me... It’s about the universal Church coming together as one and giving glory to God... There’s so much joy that comes out of that truth,” observed Montenegro, who traveled with Pohlen’s group.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Montenegro

A huge crowd gathered at Blonia Park in Krakow for the welcoming ceremony for Pope Francis.

Those values helped her to weather the give and take of 500 young women staying together in one gym in Krakow!

“The moments that really made an impression on me were the times we had a little bit of silence,” such as visits to the basilicas and later to the Auschwitz concentration camp, Montenegro said.

In Auschwitz, the pilgrims were able to “see the effects of taking God out of society,” said Pohlen. “The message I took back was, ‘Young people, do not retire before your time. Do not give up on your dreams.’”

It’s a message that applies not just to youth, but to all generations...



Photo courtesy of Melissa Montenegro

Members of the St. Joseph, Kennewick, group stopped in front of the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Krakow.

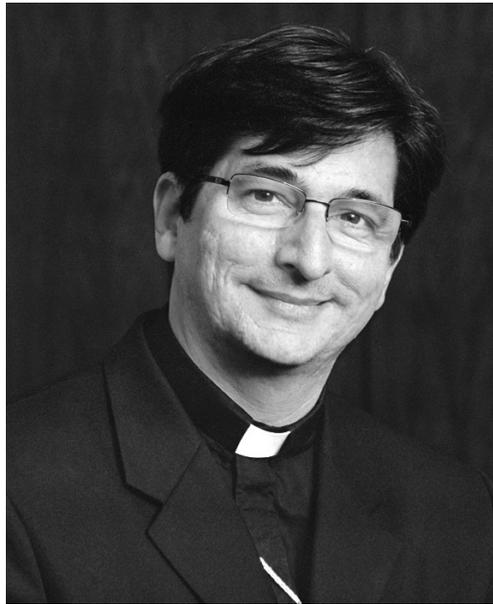
tion for three hours,” recalled Maha Nassar, a member of Holy Family Church in Yakima who accompanied Father’s group. Even the youth would kneel and pray, “adoring God

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

Some years ago, Charles Schulz – the creator of the Peanuts cartoon strip – did a television special titled, “It was a short summer, Charlie Brown!” Rather than the usual holiday-themed television specials, this television special was geared to the “back-to-school” moment where students start school and are assigned to write an essay on what they did on their summer vacation.

This issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* features what we all did during the summer: World Youth Day, Summer Migrant Ministry and – of course – the annual clash of the Titans: The Priest vs. Seminarian soccer match (which we won!) We also had



Bishop Joseph Tyson

77 high school youth at our annual summer vocation camp, Quo Vadis,

where participants began to answer that Latin question: Where are you going – with your life?

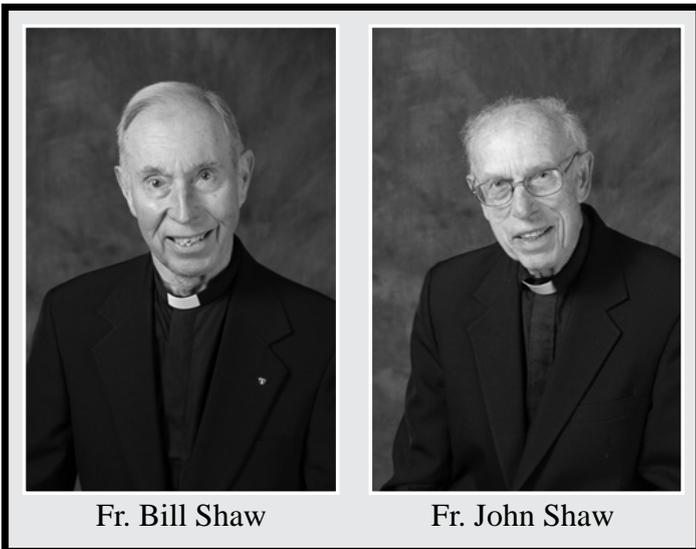
Because of our faith, our very lives are essays. They are not essays we write to God. Quite the opposite. They are essays God writes to the world, using us as ink to describe His ongoing love through our service as a Church.

As summer ends and the round of fall parish, school and community activities begin, let's resolve to step back and appreciate the school of life in which we are engaged and the way Christ is our master teacher.

With every best wish and blessing,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Fathers Bill and John Shaw To Be Honored at Celebration of Faith



Fr. Bill Shaw

Fr. John Shaw

Fathers John and Bill Shaw of White Swan will be special honorees at the fifth annual Celebration of Faith, set for Saturday, October 8, at the Yakima Convention Center.

The two will be recognized for their tireless devotion to Catholic education throughout their many years of ministry, including combined service in some 24 parishes of the Diocese of Yakima.

Father Bill currently serves as pastor of St. Mary Church in White Swan, while Father John heads Native American ministry for the Diocese.

“The Shaw brothers provide a living example of how we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ,” observed Kathleen Wilmes, executive director of the Central Washington Catholic

Foundation which is hosting the event. “There are endless stories about how they have spent their lives making themselves fully present to the people of Central Washington. In fact, they can be found praying in front of Planned Parenthood most Wednesdays before they go to visit the sick and homebound – and that is their day off! When it comes to sharing Faith, the Shaw Brothers lead by example.”

The Celebration of Faith will feature a keynote address by Father Patrick Howell, S.J., a professor at Seattle University since 1985 in the School of Theology and Ministry and now in the new Institute of Catholic Thought and Culture. He will talk about the “Legacy of Catholic Education.”

Awards also will be presented to Champions of Catholic Education, individuals from across the Diocese who have made a particular contribution of their time, talent and treasure in this arena.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., for the Celebration of Faith reception, dinner and program. Admission is \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10. To register, visit www.cwcatholicfoundation.org or call (509) 972-3732.

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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

It Wasn't A 'Year of Mercy' for Annual Soccer Match

It may be the Year of Mercy. However, that didn't stop the diocesan priests from once again routing the seminarians in their fifth annual soccer match, August 7 at Marquette Field in Yakima!

Led by team captain, Father Felipe Pulido, with participation by Bishop Joseph Tyson, the priests rolled over the seminarian team with a score of 6-2. It was the priests' fourth win in this ongoing faceoff.



Priests and seminarians left the field at the end of the soccer match.

A crowd of several hundred spectators watched from the stands on a day with temperatures in the 80s -- considerably cooler than in previous years. More than \$4,000 was raised from the event for seminarian education.

Fathers Lalo Barragan, Luta Nsubuga (a so-called "ringer" from the Spokane Diocese), Tomas Vasquez (2), Pulido and Vandennis Nguyen scored for the priests. The seminarians answered with scores by Ronaldo Govea and Jesus Mariscal.

"I really thought that they were going to beat us this time," said Father Pulido of the seminarians.

So, where was the show of mercy by priests, in this year dedicated to the virtue? "They didn't explain that to the Diocese of Spokane when they sent Father Luta," observed seminarian Kurt Hadley at halftime.

"We've been giving them too many chances. We need to get a stronger defense," added Daniel Sanchez, a member of the seminarians' team.

However, on a day when even the "cheerleaders" for the match, Mother Isabel Donate, and Sisters Irma Lerma and Blanca Espino, carried orange pompoms (the color of the priests' jerseys), it was not to be.

After the dust had settled, the priests had once again vanquished the seminarians. The

seminarians may need to find comfort in that Biblical teaching which promises, "The last shall be first and the first shall be last." After all, there's always next year!



Father Felipe Pulido moved the ball for his team.



Photos courtesy of Christine Conklin

Sisters served as cheerleaders for the game.

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Christ the King Schedules Event

Christ the King School in Richland will hold its annual Sausage Fest fundraiser, September 16-17.

The event, which will run from 5 p.m. to midnight Friday and 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday, will feature food, beer gardens, entertainment and games.

Admission is free.

For more information, visit www.cksausagefest.org.

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Have You Visited the 'Holy Door'?

There's still time to obtain special graces during this "Extraordinary Year of Mercy" as proclaimed by Pope Francis.

Until November 20, the official end of the "Extraordinary Year," it is possible for Catholics to receive an "indulgence" – full or partial remission of "temporal" punishment for sins which have been committed. (Temporal punishment refers to penalties which might arise in this life or in Purgatory.)

To receive an indulgence, just follow several simple steps...Walk through the Holy Door (main door) of St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima or the door of St. Vincent De Paul Center in Kennewick. Make a profession of Faith (such as the Nicene Creed or Apostles Creed) and pray for the intentions of Pope Francis. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. All of these steps may be completed on the same day or, in the case of Reconciliation for example, within a week or two.

You can make more than one pilgrimage to a Holy Door, perhaps visiting the same site again to merit this indulgence for a loved one who has died. This special indulgence cannot be merited for another living person, however. It also is possible to visit a Holy Door in any other diocese of the world.

Check your parish website or bulletin to see if your parish is planning a pilgrimage to a Holy Door, or plan to come on your own or with loved ones. It's a priceless investment in your future!

Retirement Collection Supports Hermitage

The annual special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious September 10-11 in the Diocese of Yakima again will include support for the housing and health care needs of Sister Janet Strong, our diocesan hermit.

A professed hermit for more than 30 years, Sister Janet has remained unceasingly in prayer for the needs of the people of the Diocese of Yakima since her arrival in 1997. Retired from a career as a psychiatric nurse, Sister Janet is provided by the Diocese with housing in a small home in north Yakima, and assistance with her health care needs.

Fifty percent of the collection will be kept in the Diocese to help pay for that support. The balance will go to the Retirement Fund for Religious, which benefits some 35,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests – women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church.

"Pope Francis tells us, 'Every consecrated person is a gift for the People of God on its journey,'" noted Bishop Joseph Tyson. "I recognize these are but two of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you give what you can ... in supporting this collection and in praising God for the gifts that consecrated life offers our Church."

Cornerstone Conference Planned

A regional Cornerstone Conference October 22 in Spokane features two well-known pro-life speakers.

Richard Doerflinger, former assistant director of the Pro-Life Activities Office for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will present on "A Prophetic Voice for Human Life and Dignity." Sr. Linda Haydock, SNJM, executive director of the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center in Seattle, will present on "Faithful Citizenship in the Year of Mercy."

The conference will be held at the Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center in the Spokane Valley, and includes breakout sessions on a variety of pro-life topics, along with a panel discussion. It begins at 10 a.m. and closes with a 4 p.m. Mass with Spokane Bishop Thomas Daly.

The Bishops of Washington State sponsor Cornerstone Conferences to inspire Catholics to protect human life: the unborn, people living in poverty or on the margins of society, and people at the end of life. Register online at www.CatholicCharitiesSpokane.org. For more information, contact Scott Cooper, (509) 358-4273 or scooper@ccspokane.org.

Farmworker Ministry: Nurturing the Seeds of Faith

Seminarians and prospective seminarians of the Diocese of Yakima took to the fields again this summer, helping to nurture the seeds of faith.

It was all part of a program designed to allow future priests to better understand and evangelize the migrant farmworkers they will one day serve.

In turn, the farmworkers "helped us in expanding and growing in our Faith," observed Omar Manzo, a student at Central Washington University who is discerning a priestly vocation and served as a program intern. "It was really humbling."

In total, nine seminarians and two interns worked with Bishop Tyson, area priests and sisters to "bring Jesus" to those who spend long days working in the fields and may not have a chance to get to a church in town.

"People are hungry for the sacraments, for the Bible, to know more about the Word of God," said Father Alejandro Trejo, pastor of Our Lady of the Desert in Mattawa, who helped coordinate the outreach program. As many as 300 people might gather on an evening when the team set up in a rural location.

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Bible study and RCIA classes were conducted in Mattawa migrant camps. Mass was offered on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, followed by a meal and piñata-breaking for the children. Sacraments such as Baptism and Reconciliation also were administered, with the sisters preparing individuals and families beforehand.

Bishop Tyson himself did many baptisms and even told Bible stories with the use of a donkey puppet named "Burrito Arturito," Father Trejo said.

In July, the seminarians and interns toiled alongside farmworkers in the fields and orchards, thinning grape vines, putting up guides for small apple trees, sorting cherries

and weeding in the apple orchards, Manzo said.

"It taught me how God is present everywhere...to appreciate how different that way of life is," he said.

Jesus Mariscal, a third-year theologian (seminarian) who helped direct the program, admitted that the farm work was not easy. Even though he had worked in the orchards in Bridgeport one summer when he was 14, "I'm still bad at picking cherries," he said with a laugh. The speed and dexterity with which you're expected to work, including leaving stems on

the cherries, can be a challenge.

However, as a future shepherd of God's people, this gave Mariscal a wonderful opportunity to work closely with the farmworkers, talking and sharing with them, "to get the smell of the sheep" as an attentive shepherd would do. (Mariscal's dedication has earned him a nomination for Catholic Extension's 2016 Lumen Christi Award.)

"My faith was strengthened by seeing the faith of these people," he said.

Daniel Sanchez, a student at Eastern Washington University who is discerning a call to the priesthood and served as a program intern, benefited in numerous ways.

The program helped him "understand my neighbor's story, how he got here, where he's going," Sanchez said. And, as the farmworkers asked him "a lot of questions about the Catholic Faith," it gave him the chance for evangelization.

Sanchez said that, before this summer, "I thought that I was being called to go out to other places to help people." Now, he realizes that, "people in my own state are in need of the Gospel. They're waiting for someone to invite them to have a relationship with Christ."

Living and working with the seminarians over the summer has also given Sanchez "more calm to my heart" regarding a priestly vocation, he said. "I have the reassurance that it's normal to feel some confusion." He now knows that he doesn't "have to be a saint before going to the seminary," just to focus on his prayers and to try to do his best.

As the summer migrant ministry program has come to an end, and the seminarians and interns prepare to go back to school, it is hoped that local priests and sisters will be able to continue outreach efforts whenever possible in the months to come.



Photo courtesy of Jesus Mariscal

Bishop Tyson, seminarians, sisters and catechumens gathered during the summer migrant outreach.



Photo courtesy of Jesus Mariscal

Bishop Tyson and seminarians paused during their work in the fields.