



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*  
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

OCTOBER 2013  
*Newsletter*

## Mass Celebrates First Anniversary of Tekakwitha Canonization

By Christine Corbett Conklin



(Left to right) Margaret Witt wafted ceremonial smoke toward clergy members; the statue of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha had a place of honor before the altar; and Fathers Bill (far left) and John Shaw (far right) stood with Lydia Johnson (second from right) and other honored Mass attendees. -Photos courtesy of Jule LeBeau.

With wafts of ceremonial smoke, fanned toward the congregation with an eagle's feather, and welcoming words spoken in the Nez Perce language, the first anniversary Mass marking the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha began at St. Peter Claver Church in Wapato on October 19.

More than 150 people, including many Native Americans dressed in elements of traditional attire, attended the Mass. Bishop Joseph Tyson served as principal celebrant, assisted by Wapato Pastor Father Juan Godina; Fathers John and Bill Shaw, both of whom have been active in Native American ministry; and Wapato Deacon John Kassinger.

With sunlight streaming through the stained glass windows of the church, the atmosphere was hushed and respectful. There was only one excited cheer by a preschooler in the back of the church, who had apparently caught the enthusiasm of the congregation who were marking the one-year anniversary of Tekakwitha becoming the first Native American, North American saint.

In his homily, Bishop Tyson recalled how,

one year ago, he was in Rome, attending the canonization ceremony for seven saints including Tekakwitha. He was accompanied by other pilgrims from the Diocese, including 93-year-old Lydia Johnson, a member of the Kateri Tekakwitha Circle who had prayed for the young Indian woman's canonization for decades and was in attendance at the anniversary Mass. A huge crowd of some 100,000 pilgrims was present in Rome for the special occasion, the bishop noted.

"What are we to make of these great numbers of pilgrims? What are we to make of this immense hunger?" Tyson asked the congregation. "We want people who point us to happiness, to live a happy life. Our life is happiest when our will aligns with the will of God," he suggested.

Kateri Tekakwitha "led a simple life and remained faithful to her love of Jesus," he said. "Her greatest wish was to know and do what pleased God... Her vocation was so unusual in the culture at that time," he added, telling how the young daughter of a Mohawk father and Christian Algonquin mother was

baptized at the age of 20 and went on to work in the outskirts of what is now Montreal. She died at the age of 24.

She proclaimed "the ageless gospel in a new circumstance," Tyson noted, living in the spirit of the New Evangelization which we are all called to profess. "Like Kateri and the other six saints, we want to witness a new birth of that ageless Faith," the Bishop concluded. "We want to draw people to the beauty of that Christian pathway."

Other highlights of the celebratory Mass included the "signing" of the Our Father by children of Native American descent. A meal at the Filipino Hall followed Mass.

The day was a particularly joyful one for the members of the Kateri Tekakwitha Circle, with numerous members attending the festivities wrapped in colorful blanket shawls.

"(The canonization) is a goal we've worked on for a very long time," observed member Patty Gonzales.

"It's so very special because we've been getting together for over 60 years for this to happen," agreed member Rose Hoptowit.

## Bishop Urges Catholics to "Share the Light of Christ"

As one of the most successful campaigns of the Yakima Diocese's Annual Catholic Appeal draws to a close, Bishop Joseph Tyson is urging Catholics to support the 2014 ACA by "Sharing the Light of Christ."

Parishioners attending Mass the weekend of November 2-3 will be asked to make a pledge

to the ACA, which has a goal of \$1.525 million for the Diocese's 41 parishes and three missions. "Will you share the Light of Christ?" Bishop Tyson asked parishioners, in a letter sent to Catholic households in recent weeks. He noted that the theme is inspired by St. Teresa of Avila of Spain, a 16th-century

Carmelite nun and mystic.

"Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which He looks with compassion on this world," St. Teresa wrote.

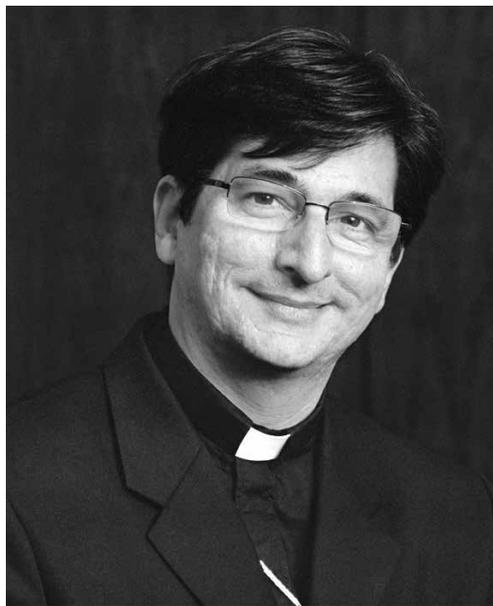
*Continued on page 2*

# A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the October edition of the Central Washington Catholic. First off, I want to thank all of you for supporting the Annual Catholic Appeal. This newsletter is one of the ministries supported by the ACA. Likewise this issue also launches a monthly feature on the various vicars who – besides serving as local pastors – have some kind of oversight for Diocesan-wide ministry – ministry supported by the ACA. Indeed, many of the programs about which you read have some kind of support thanks to generous donors like yourselves who support the ACA. So again, I want to thank you for the support – not only of your local parish – but of the Diocesan-wide communion we are to each other through the ACA.

Our issue also features stories that form the fabric of our church life and grow from that stewardship of time, treasure and talent. It was a real joy to celebrate the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Mass, commemorating the first anniversary of her canonization which brought people from across the Diocese together. Similarly what better way to see time, treasure and talent lived out than by



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

reading about Resurrection Parish in Zillah?

We also have brief features on a couple of other major stewardship moments. Last year, I was able to attend the St. Rose of Lima school auction. Every single classroom project was anchored in a scripture passage and, similarly, during our

Sunday Gospel cycle of readings from St. Matthew, each month featured school-wide a Beatitude that the students studied and learned to live.

Efforts like St. Rose of Lima's are seasoned by the Diocesan-wide support of our annual Central Washington Catholic Foundation dinner. As you know I have two firm intents as bishop: All children learn about Jesus regardless of the parish they are in – large or small, English or Spanish – and all children who want a Catholic education should get one regardless of ability to pay. We have a long journey ahead with both of my intents, but the wonderful gala dinner with its record-breaking fundraising is getting us closer. I'm so grateful to Dan Fortier, Nancy Probst and the entire CWCF board for their wonderful efforts.

Taken together, I hope this issue inspires you to consider your own stewardship and how you are sharing in the Church's mission to serve as did Jesus.

With every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Bishop Urges Catholics to "Share the Light of Christ" *Continued from page 1*

"Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands. Yours are the feet. Yours are the eyes. You are His body. Christ has no body now but yours."

The ACA funds the central administration of the Diocese, and such ministries as the Office of Canonical Concerns, various child, youth and adult religious education programs, deacon formation, the Central Washington Catholic newsletter, Catholic Campus Ministry in Ellensburg, and Calvary Cemetery and the Ahtanum Mission in the Yakima area.

The 2014 campaign seeks to build on the success of the 2013 campaign, which wrapped up October 31 and had a goal of \$1.464 million. Parishioners pledged \$1.938 million, a record amount. As of September 30, \$1.696 million had been received. In each parish, the goal is set at 16 percent of the Sunday income collected in the previous fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Any money collected over the goal is returned to parishes in the form of a rebate.

As of September 30, \$290,215 in rebates had been paid or were in process. Since not every parish made its goal, the shortfall to the Diocesan offices was \$58,108, about half the size of the previous year's shortfall for the same time period.

This year's goal is higher because parish Sunday giving was up by more than 4 percent over the past year, said Msgr. Robert Siler, chancellor of the Diocese. "Both the record pledges and the increase in Sunday giving are positive signs that parishioners are growing in their understanding of the importance of stewardship," he said.

"The amount you give comes from your prayer," noted Bishop Tyson. "It does not matter how little or how much you give! What matters is that you give a sufficient amount so that you are challenged to change your spending habits.

"Why? Because ultimately the Annual Catholic Appeal is not about money," the Bishop said. "It is about the mission of 'Sharing the Light of Christ.'"

As parishioners discern through prayer what their gift to the ACA might be, one common model of giving might be of assistance. Based on the Biblical practice of tithing, this model sets aside 1 percent of household income for the work of the Bishop, 4-5 percent for the work of the local parish, and 4-5 percent for other worthy charities.

For more information about the ACA, visit the Diocesan website, [www.yakimadiocese.org](http://www.yakimadiocese.org) and look for the Annual Catholic Appeal link under the "Ministries" tab.

### Central Washington Catholic

October 2013 · Volume 36 · Issue 10

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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.

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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

# What's a Vicar? Who's a Vicar?

From time to time in the Catholic Church, we hear the term "vicar." It sounds quite impressive, but what does it actually mean? In short, a "vicar" is a deputy or representative, someone who acts on behalf of someone in higher authority. For example, Pope Francis is referred to as the "vicar of Christ." In a Diocese, a vicar usually oversees a particular area of diocesan life for the bishop.

In the Diocese of Yakima, we have 10 vicars in all. **Rev. Msgr. John Ecker**, pastor of St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, is our Vicar General – which means that when Bishop Joseph Tyson is absent from the Diocese, he can act with the authority of the Bishop to make key decisions. His focus is on the life of the parishes and clergy of the Diocese.

**Rev. Msgr. Robert Siler**, chancellor of the Diocese, is also the Episcopal Vicar for Administration. He also can act with the authority of the Bishop when he is away. Msgr. Siler's focus is on the central administration of the Diocese. The **Very Rev. Michael Ibach** is the Judicial Vicar, heading the Office of Canonical Concerns which deals with such issues as annulments and other matters of church law.

The list continues with the **Very Rev. Lawrence Reilly**, a senior priest with regular ministry at St. Andrew's Parish in Ellensburg, and **Rev. Msgr. Mario Salazar**, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Quincy, who are Vicars for Priests – English-speaking priests and Spanish-speaking priests, respectively. They help advise the Bishop on clergy matters, and are available to their brother priests to respond to any issues that may arise in their ministry.

The **Very Rev. Thomas Champoux**, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Richland, is Vicar for Charities. The **Very Rev. Osmar Aguirre**, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Prosser, is Vicar for Parish Life. Other vicars of the Diocese include the **Very Rev. Jaime Chacon**, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Yakima, who is Vicar for Hispanic Ministry. The **Very Rev. Thomas Kuykendall**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee, is Vicar for Schools. The **Very Rev. Felipe Pulido**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Yakima, is Vicar for Vocations.

*Next month: Learn more about how Msgr. Ecker, Msgr. Siler and Father Ibach serve the Diocese of Yakima in their roles as vicars.*

## Opening My Heart to Life By Mary McClusky

*(The following guest column, prepared for Respect Life Month, has been condensed with permission of the author.)*

"Do you have kids?" my co-worker asked as he looked at an old family photo of me surrounded by nieces and nephews. He was helping me move into a new office, and my mind was focused on the many other duties that were piling up. He went on to mention that he and his wife had adopted twin sons from Guatemala. However, I was distracted and simply said, "that's great" before moving the conversation along.

As I turned my mind towards promoting the theme of this year's Respect Life Program, "Open your hearts to life!" I realized what I had done. The phrase, borrowed from Pope Francis, reminds us that the culture of death begins with a culture of rejection. In seemingly trivial ways, we often place our desires over the needs of others. I had placed my to-do list ahead of my co-worker's desire to share the details of his children's adoption.

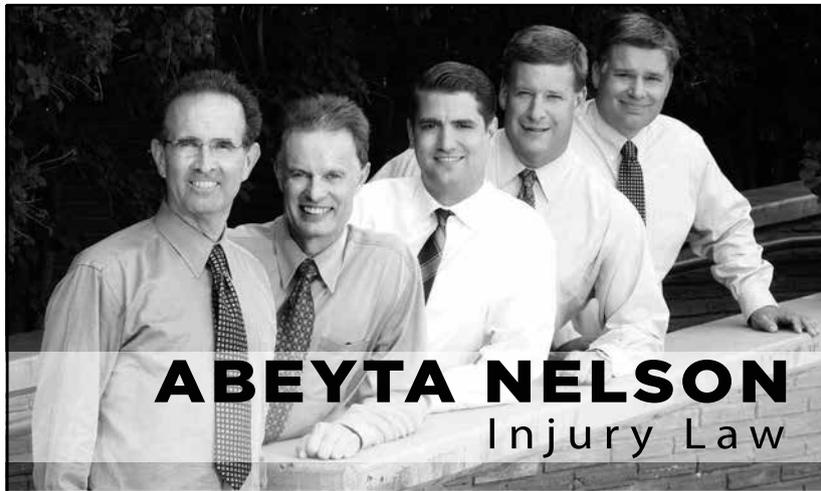
After realizing my hurried response did not reflect that call, I went back to my colleague and asked him to tell me his family's story. I listened as he described the pain of his wife's ectopic pregnancy and how they chose adoption over the unacceptable choice of IVF that was presented by their physician. The couple tackled mounds of paperwork and received visits from fire marshals and social workers.

The couple checked "yes" to accepting more than one child, including the possibility of siblings. The adoption agency told them they had never had twins from Guatemala because they usually don't survive, so they were surprised a few months later when they received the call that they had been chosen to adopt twin sons. In February of the following year, they traveled to Guatemala to meet their sons and bring them home. "It was amazing. We were a family," said my co-worker.

Opening our hearts to life means loving those whom God puts in our paths, even when it seems inconvenient or time-consuming.

As we celebrate Respect Life Month this October, may each of us remember to keep our hearts open to each and every person whom God puts in our path, loving and praying for them all with an open heart.

*Note: Mary McClusky is Assistant Director for Education & Outreach at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*



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# NEWS

## From Around the Diocese

### Mass Remembers Deceased Clergy

They faithfully served our Diocese over the years. Now is your opportunity to come and pray for those who have gone before us.

All are welcome to attend the annual Mass for Deceased Priests, Bishops and Deacons, set for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 5 at St. Paul Cathedral. Bishop Joseph Tyson will be the principal celebrant.

### St. Rose School Plans Auction

"Into the Vineyard" is the theme for the 30th annual benefit auction scheduled for 5 p.m., Saturday, November 9, at St. Rose of Lima School, Ephrata.

Tickets are \$40 for this event which will feature hundreds of silent and live auction items.

Reservations may be made online at [www.saintroseschool.org/auction](http://www.saintroseschool.org/auction) or call the school office at (509) 754-4901 for information on sponsoring a table.

### Holy Family Slates Family Programs

Come hear a message of "faith, hope and love" through the music and storytelling of Steve Angrisano, November 11-13, at Holy Family Church in Yakima.

Angrisano, a veteran musician, composer and youth minister who has been featured at numerous World Youth Days, and emceed National Catholic Youth Conferences and pro-life march youth rallies, will appear from 7 to 8 p.m., each of the three days.

The performances, which are free and open to the public, will offer humor, song, stories and interaction for a unique family faith experience.

### Oktoberfest Set for Naches

Come and enjoy sausage, sauerkraut and other favorite foods at the annual Oktoberfest, scheduled for 6 p.m., Saturday, November 16 at St. John Catholic Church in Naches. The event also will include silent and live auction items.

Admission is free, although donations are welcome.

The church is located at 206 Moxee Avenue in Naches, two doors from the red City Hall building. A Mass at 5 p.m. will precede the event. For questions, call (509) 653-2534.

### 'Celebration of Faith' Surpasses Goal

Thanks to the support of people from throughout the Diocese of Yakima, the second annual Celebration of Faith event, sponsored by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation on October 12, was a great success.

Some \$268,000 – surpassing this year's goal of \$250,000 – was raised, to provide tuition assistance to our Catholic school students and to help support catechesis and faith formation programs of our smaller and poorer rural parishes.

The generosity of all participants is most appreciated!

## Resurrection Parish in Zillah: "All One, God's People"

By Christine Corbett Conklin

In the small city of Zillah, Washington (population 3,035), in a valley focused on agriculture, Resurrection Parish has matured with grace and resilience.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary on November 4 of this year, the parish has had a total of 17 pastors thus far, due to factors such as illness, death and reassignments of their shepherds.

"There have been so many pastors, the (parishioners) have had to assume many responsibilities for themselves, assume leadership roles" in the interims between new appointments, observed Father Bill Vogel, S.J., who has served as pastor for one year.

"People here anticipate all of the needs. There's always someone ready to step up. I find that extremely uplifting," he said.

Established in fall of 1963 as the 32nd parish in the Diocese of Yakima, Resurrection Church has been led by: Fathers Paul Flad; Edward Wawrzynski; Arthur Waters; Robert Shields; Robert DeSantis; Paul Stecker; Bertrand Horvath; Richard Queen; Walter Janer, S.J.; Donal Kennedy; Ronald Patnode; William Shaw; Emmett Sarsfield; Argemiro Orozco; Francisco Herrera; Juan Flores; and now, Father Vogel. Two deacons, Bill Hudson and Bernie Alvarez, come to assist from outside the parish.

At first, the Resurrection Parish congregation met at the Orchardvale Grange for Mass, with weddings and funerals at St. Aloysius Church in Toppenish. Then, they gathered in a mission church of the local Episcopal parish. Their own stone and wood parish

church, with its rectangular, colored-glass windows, was completed in 1966. The parish currently has about 525 members.

"It's such a blending of people. You have those with Master's and Doctoral degrees and you have hardworking farmworkers," noted John Griffin, a parishioner since 1979 who serves as a lay pastoral volunteer, helping with everything from lecturing to religious education. "It's sometimes a hard thing for parishes who blend demographics, but here, it has gone really well. We are all one, God's people. We have much more in common than we have differences."

Blanca Rodriguez, a parishioner for about 16 years, and parish secretary who taught religious education in Spanish, agreed.

"Both cultures bring in their ideas, their culture," she said. "They want to participate. It's friendly. We make new people, new families welcome."

Parishioners give Father Vogel a lot of credit for steering the ship. Though pastor for just a year, he has been in residence in the parish for several years, including a long assignment as chaplain at Toppenish Community Hospital.

"He understands both Anglos and Hispanics," Rodriguez observed. "He's open to ideas. He is flexible. He encourages both (groups)."

Gerald Sauer, a parishioner for 26 years, added his appreciation. "We have an excellent priest," he said. "Father has a tendency of getting things done. I don't know just how he does it, but he manages to do a lot of good things in the parish." And, true to the Jesuit tradition, he's a good teacher, Sauer said.

"It's intriguing to go to Mass (and listen)," he observed. Father's homilies are always interesting, he said, suggesting, "He's such an intellect."

Among special parish projects each year in Resurrection Parish are the Harvest Dinner in November, a parish festival in July, and "St. Joseph's Table" – a sharing of fresh produce each summer in which parishioners are encouraged to bring produce and to take whatever they need.

"I enjoy the families here, their generosity, their spirit of cooperation," concluded Father Vogel.

"It's a wonderful parish," agreed Griffin. "I'm excited to see what the future holds!"



Resurrection Church in Zillah. -Photo courtesy of parishioners.



Father Bill Vogel (left) gathered with Maria Rodriguez and Father John Shaw for the dedication of a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe. -Photo courtesy of parishioners.