



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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MAY 2015
Newsletter

Dan and Peter Steele: Brothers In Life, Now Brothers In Christ

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As brothers, they used to play baseball together. They also enjoyed skateboarding. Now, Dan and Peter Steele have embarked on the greatest adventure of their lives. On May 22, they were ordained as transitional deacons at St. Joseph Church in Kennewick, the last major step before being ordained as priests for the Diocese of Yakima.

Following a 7 p.m. Ordination Mass, with Bishop Joseph Tyson as principal celebrant, the two were honored with a reception at adjacent Dillon Hall.

“It’s cool to have someone to share the journey with,” observed Peter, 27, as he was preparing for their ordination day.

“No one will ever know me like my brother does,” agreed Dan, 30. “He’s definitely my best friend.”

As Dan explained, the two brothers were on their “own separate paths,” as they began the journey which brought them to this day.

Peter, who first heard a calling toward a religious vocation at about age 11 or 12, growing up in Olympia, took the first step. After receiving an Associate of Arts degree from South Puget Sound Community College, he entered the Franciscan novitiate in Alabama, discerning life as a Franciscan Brother. He later went to Christ the King Seminary near Vancouver, B.C., where he received a Bachelor of Philosophy degree.

Dan, who as of about seventh grade, also thought that he might be called for a religious vocation, focused on other areas for

a time, graduating from Central Washington University and working as a graphic designer in Kennewick. He entered Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon in 2010, as a seminarian of the Diocese of Yakima.

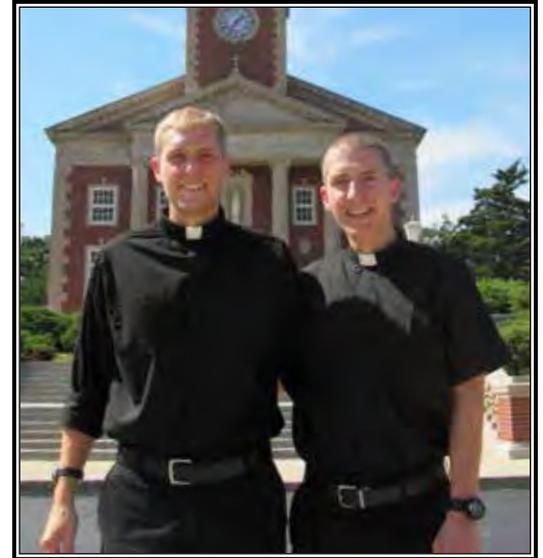
When the time came for Dan to transfer to Mundelein Seminary near Chicago to begin theology studies, Peter also felt led to become a seminarian of the Diocese of Yakima. The two brothers have just completed their first three years of required theology studies in Illinois. They’ll return to Mundelein this fall, then add a fifth year of studies for advanced degrees over the next few summers, after priestly ordination.

“It’s been a grace-filled journey,” said Dan, noting that there were also some very human moments of “nervousness and terror” leading up to his ordination as a deacon. “It’s the next step. God is helping me make this step. He’s kind of been holding my hand the whole way.”

Peter noted that he was “pretty excited” and “ready for action” in his new role as a deacon, which can include preaching at Mass, performing weddings and baptisms, plus a host of other responsibilities.

As the two were ordained, they officially became “clerics,” meaning that now they are bound by priestly vows such as obedience and celibacy.

Looking ahead to their ordination as priests, which could occur in 2016, Peter describes the priesthood as an “adventurous, blessed



From left, Dan and Peter Steele are now transitional deacons.

life,” and observed how, “as a priest, God is able to use you in a lot of ways.”

The brothers note that their mother, father and three younger siblings now plan to move to the Diocese of Yakima from Western Washington.

This will be great, they agree. Just one catch. As excited as they are about becoming priests in the near future, they’re kind of hoping they don’t need to hear their family members’ confessions!

Congratulations to Peter and Dan Steele on their ordinations and many blessings in the years to come.

Sister Maria de Jesus Ybarra Dies

Sister Maria de Jesus Ybarra, OP, who for many years worked in the Office for Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Yakima, died May 2 at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle at the age of 86. A Mass of Christian Burial was held May 9 at Mount St. Vincent Chapel in Seattle.

A native of Edinburg, Texas, Sister and her family moved to Eastern Washington in 1950. She joined the Sisters of the Company of Mary in 1954 in Southern California and served as a teacher and principal in their schools for a number of years.

In 1975, she returned to Eastern Washington to help care for her aging father. Offering her services to Bishop Nicholas Walsh, she was appointed Hispanic Catechetical Director for the Diocese of Yakima. After a period of discernment, she transferred to the Dominican Sisters of Tacoma so that she could continue working here.

In 2001, she left Yakima for the Diocese of Sioux Falls to help strengthen its ministry efforts. Health problems forced her return to Seattle, where she retired. According to her religious order, Sister’s special focus in life was Hispanic Ministry, helping with people’s pastoral needs “from cradle to grave.”

Memorial donations may be made to the Dominican Sisters Retirement Fund at 935 Fawcett Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402. May Sister Ybarra rest in peace.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

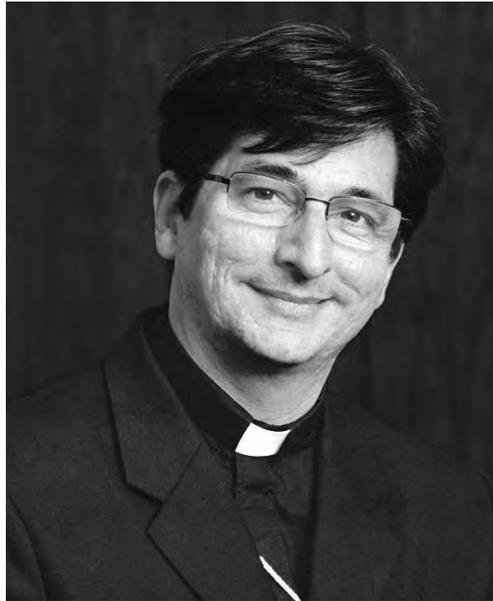
Dear Friends,

This month, we feature the ordination to the transitional diaconate of two seminarians: Peter Steele and Dan Steele. As you can read in the story, they hail from here in the Pacific Northwest.

Yet their vocation story builds on the dedication of long-time missionary priests here in the Diocese of Yakima. In fact, next month, we will be featuring the 55th anniversaries in the priesthood of three of these dedicated priests: Fathers Alberto Cerezo, Seamus Kerr and John O'Shea! You will note that all three of these priests came to us from overseas: Ireland and Spain. Indeed, though the majority of priests here in the Diocese of Yakima now speak Spanish as a first language, the Irish clergy paved the way, often mentoring Mexican and Colombian immigrant clergy into becoming missionaries here in Central Washington. These newer clergy, in turn, are mentoring men like Dan and Peter from here in our own back yard.

While Holy Names Sister Marina Rose Parisi was born in the United States, her response to God's call has taken her to places as diverse as Italy and Peru. We honor her 60 years of consecrated religious life.

Even our obituaries of Cardinal Francis



Bishop Joseph Tyson

George, OMI, as well as Sister Maria Ybarra, OP, speak to the reality that all we have and all we are as a Church is built on the shoulders of great missionaries who have gone before us.

Quite by accident, I happened to have telephoned Cardinal George the day before he died. We talked a bit about La Salle High

School in Yakima and the departure of the Christian Brothers' community, even as the school retains its sponsorship by this fine order of religious men. As always, he had gracious words to share and fond memories of his time here in Yakima.

In light of all we have received as a Church, what gift of ourselves will we make in return? That's the question that should stay with us as we prepare for the 10th Northwest Regional Catholic Stewardship Conference in Kennewick in June. At that conference, I will be directly addressing one talk on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel." In it, he so eloquently states his dream of a Church with a "Missionary Option."

That "option" begins with me and you. I hope this issue of the Central Washington Catholic inspires you to come to the stewardship conference and to be a good steward of your time, your treasure and your talent so that we can animate the mission of the Church here in the Diocese of Yakima.

With my every best wish and blessing!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

New Priest Assignments Announced

Bishop Joseph Tyson has announced the following changes in priest assignments, effective for the most part on June 1, 2015:

- 1) **Rev. Juan Flores**, pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish in Toppenish, was granted a sabbatical for reasons of health effective April 25. He will be in his native Mexico through December 31, providing limited sacramental ministry as he addresses health concerns. **Rev. William Vogel, S.J.**, pastor of Resurrection Parish in Zillah, is moderator of the Toppenish parish through May 31 of this year.
- 2) **Very Rev. Jaime Chacón**, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Yakima, will become pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish as of June 1. He remains Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and Director of the Magnificat Program.
- 3) **Rev. Ricardo Villareal**, pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish in Chelan and Saint Anne Parish in Bridgeport, will become pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Yakima on June 1.
- 4) **Rev. Rogelio Gutiérrez**, parochial vicar of Saint Paul Cathedral in Yakima, will become pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish in Chelan and Saint Anne Parish in Bridgeport on June 1.
- 5) **Rev. Francisco Gutiérrez**, who is studying at the Chicago Theological Union, will be in residence at Saint Paul Cathedral from June 15 to August 31 while working on his doctoral thesis. He will be available for full-time assignment in the Diocese after December 31 of this year.

Bishop Tyson thanks all of these priests for their continued service to the Church. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Francis Cardinal George *Continued from page 4*

"Everybody he saw, he would put his hand on their forearm," she recalled.

Hanses was moved by the deep faith she saw in Bishop George, including time spent with him on a group pilgrimage to Lourdes.

"He believed," she said. "He was very close to Mary."

Bishop George would go on from Yakima to become Archbishop of Portland, Oregon, for about a year, before becoming Archbishop of Chicago and then Cardinal. However, it was truly here in Yakima where he got his bearings as a bishop, Miller observed.

"Bishop George always said that the people of Yakima taught him how to be a bishop," she said. "That's because he was open enough to listen." In turn, "We learned a lot about our faith from him," she suggested.

Cardinal George's "spiritual depth" was very evident during his last visit to Yakima in October, Bishop Tyson recalled.

It was "a visit that was nothing short of heroic given his medical condition," Bishop Tyson said. "As he boarded the plane to return to Chicago, he turned to me before climbing the steps from the tarmac and asked me to bless him before he left Yakima. It was a very moving moment for me."

May Francis Cardinal George rest in peace.

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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Stewardship Conference Features Noted Speakers

Two dynamic speakers from the East Coast are among those traveling to St. Joseph Church in Kennewick, June 26 and 27, to share their perspectives on stewardship – or how to administer our God-given gifts.

Michael Murphy, executive director of the International Catholic Stewardship Council, and Joe Citro, vice president of Greater Mission, a firm that supports the Catholic Church through stewardship and discipleship work, will speak at the 10th Northwest Regional Stewardship Conference.

Murphy, whose Washington, D.C.–based Council assists bishops, dioceses and parishes in the United States and beyond, will focus on the fundamentals of stewardship.

“Everything we have is a gift from God,” Murphy observed. “We hold these gifts sacred and we cultivate these gifts, using only what we need and sharing with others.”

Stewardship is an ancient doctrine, he explained. “The spirituality of stewardship is much deeper than discussing money and how we’re generous with our money...It’s a commitment to developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ,” he said.

At 1:45 p.m., June 26, Murphy will discuss the pastoral letter on stewardship from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops which urges, “As each one of us has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 PT 4:10)

He also will join in a forum on stewardship formation, which will explore how to introduce parishioners to what stewardship is, in a context of faith life and practices in Catholic parishes.

Citro, whose Columbia, Maryland-based firm supports the Church through capital campaigns, stewardship and development work, and strategic planning, will speak at 4 p.m., June 26, in Spanish, and again at 5 p.m. the same day in English. He will discuss “best practices” in working with the Hispanic community.

“I will be talking about engaging the Hispanic community population in the parishes,” he said. The goal is to have a “community setting that seeks to build unity in a parish among all members, especially those with diverse backgrounds.”

He will explore “a new model of discipleship” that includes “four hearts that people can strengthen or deepen,” he added. These four “hearts” are “to pray, serve, share and evangelize.”

Citro’s presentations are an example of the English-language and Spanish-language tracks which will be offered during the two-day conference.

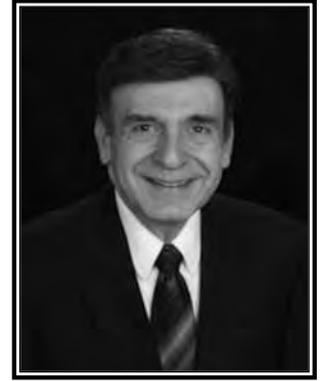
Other keynote addresses will be given by Bishop Joseph Tyson; Bishop Liam Cary of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon; and Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad of the Diocese of Spokane.

The conference, which is open to all, will include practical forums and roundtable discussions for parishes of all sizes.

To register, or for more details, visit yakimadiocese.org/stewardship-conference.



Michael Murphy



Joe Citro

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Sister Marina Rose Parisi Marks 60th Anniversary

As she prepares to celebrate her 60th anniversary in religious life, Sister Marina Rose Parisi, SNJM, says that she is “just grateful for the many blessings and the many opportunities that I have had.”

Sister will be honored for her decades of service with the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary during the 11 a.m. Mass, June 20, at St. Aloysius Church in Toppenish. Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla, S.J., will preside.

Now based in Toppenish, Sister Parisi, who notes that she’s “supposed to be retired,” volunteers at the Early Learning Center at Heritage University. She also coordinates the mission center for her religious community and associates in the Yakima Valley.

“I have always been privileged to work with those in need,” she said, noting that a focus on education in the Faith, including preparation for the sacraments, is her “love and specialty.”

Born in upper state New York, Sister Parisi lived in Italy from 1939-45. After a brief time back in New York, she and her family moved to Seattle where she attended elementary and high schools. After entering religious formation in Marylhurst, Oregon, she took her vows in 1955. She would later go on to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Fort Wright College and a Certificate in Hispanic Ministry from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

Sister’s religious life has taken her from teaching assignments in Portland, Seattle and Tacoma to Peru where she spent 18 years. Prior to coming to Toppenish, she was director of religious education at St. Peter Claver Church in Wapato for 15 years. “It’s been wonderfully rewarding,” she observed.

Congratulations to Sister Parisi as she celebrates her special anniversary!



Sister Parisi

Director Named for Foundation

Kathleen Wilmes, an active community volunteer with experience in grant writing, has been named as the new Executive Director for the Central Washington Catholic Foundation.

Wilmes served as Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kingsville, Texas, and Sedalia, Missouri, before becoming a recruiter and branch manager for Career Alternatives in St. Louis, Missouri. She later worked as a systems trainer/systems engineer with Tech Electronics, Inc., in St. Louis. In more recent years, she has been employed as a grant writer; community support specialist for developmentally disabled adults in Yakima; and as a preschool paraprofessional at St. Joseph School, also in Yakima.

Wilmes, who began work on May 26, succeeds Dan Fortier who served in the post for four years before his retirement.



Kathleen Wilmes

Francis Cardinal George: A Loving Shepherd

He was known as a “Prince of the Church,” a Cardinal. His list of accomplishments, publications, awards, educational degrees and international appointments seemed endless.

Yet, for clergy and laity of the Yakima Diocese who knew the late Francis Cardinal George, in particular when he served as Bishop of Yakima from 1990 to 1996, this was a humble man who could laugh at himself, who believed in doing things “by the book” and who had a genuine love for those in his “flock.”

Cardinal George, 78, died April 20 in Chicago after an ongoing battle with cancer. The Chicago Tribune described the April 23 funeral Mass of this native son at Holy Name Cathedral as “plain and simple, just like the man so many came to mourn.” Burial followed at All Saints Cemetery, also in Chicago, beside his parents.

“When he died, we lost a humble priest who loved the people of the Diocese of Yakima,” observed Monsignor John Ecker, pastor of St. Paul Cathedral and Vicar General of the Diocese. “He was a great man.”

Parishioners, Clergy Agree, 'He Was One of Us'

Gayle Miller, a longtime parishioner of St. Paul Cathedral who served as secretary to former Bishop of Yakima William Skylstad, and Bishop Carlos Sevilla, S.J., recalls when then-Father Francis George was on his way to Yakima, about to become our new bishop.

When folks first heard that this Oblate (of Mary Immaculate) “with all of these degrees including two doctorates (in Ecclesiology and American philosophy)” was coming, “we felt very intimidated,” she said.

However, Father George soon put everyone at their ease. As they were making arrangements for him to be picked up at the airport, Father George explained, “They’ll know me right away. I’m easy to recognize. I’m short, bald and lame,” Miller recalls. “He was laughing. He was so friendly.”

As time went on, “everybody who met him and all of the staff felt that he was our friend,” she added.

“First and foremost, he was ordained to be a priest, to be a shepherd, to be a pastor. He was one of us,” agreed Father Richard House, pastor of St. John Church in Naches.

Father House recalls a favorite anecdote from 1994, when Bishop George had come to White Salmon to install him as pastor of St. Joseph Church there. The two men were standing on the steps of the church after Mass, waiting for the last hymn to finish, when Bishop George looked at the young server, with his spiked, gelled hair.

“That’s some haircut,” Bishop George observed to the boy.

“At least I HAVE hair,” the server replied.

“Bishop George laughed and laughed,” Father House said. “Other bishops I know would have taken offense.”

Father House believes that Cardinal George’s affliction with polio, as a teenager, helped to “put things in perspective” for his life. He continued to wear a leg brace. “His internal pain was externalized in service,” Father House suggested.

He Believed In 'Going By The Book' On Religious Matters

In Chicago, Cardinal George earned the nickname of “Francis the Corrector,” Father House added. This was because of his devotion to “going by the book” when it came to religious matters, he believes. Among his many recent appointments, he was President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Chancellor of the Catholic Church Extension Society and a member of the Pontifical Commissions for Cultural Heritage of the Church and member of Pontifical councils for Cor Unum and Culture.

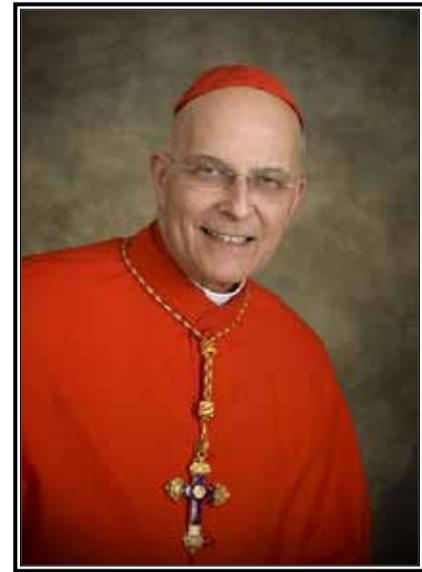
“I think Chicago seminary rector Fr. Robert Barron said it best. He was the ‘lion’ of the American episcopacy,” observed Bishop Joseph Tyson. “We served together on the administrative committee of the USCCB during a particularly sensitive time of discussion regarding the Affordable Care Act. The Cardinal had a way of getting all of us to think through theological and moral questions. He often said that the real questions of theology were found in philosophy.”

Monsignor Ecker noted that he and Bishop George “had a good time arguing” over differing perspectives on theological issues ranging from preaching to general absolution. “He never held a grudge. He was a dear friend,” he said.

He Was Known for 'Spiritual Depth' - And a Love of Ice Cream

“We got to know him on a personal level,” added Cherie Hanses, a longtime parishioner of St. Paul Cathedral, who also fondly recalled his “roaring laughter” – and his partiality for ice cream and Cougar Gold cheese.

Bishop George would literally reach out to the people of his flock, she noted.



Francis Cardinal George