



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*  
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

SEPTEMBER 2015 *Newsletter*

## Upcoming Celebration of Faith To Highlight Catholic Education, Leaders

By Christine Corbett Conklin

In today's world, where so many feel alienated despite a flood of so-called "social media" and there is a breakdown in the sense of community, the role of Catholic education is vital, suggests Father Stephen Rowan, interim dean of Arts & Sciences at St. Martin's University in Lacey.

"It's through one's religious education that one is able to see his or her human dignity in relation to Christ," contends this keynote speaker for the fourth annual Celebration of Faith event, October 10 at the Yakima Convention Center.

"Faith gives us a way to stand as we face all that life throws at us," said Father Rowan, whose previous titles include dean at the University of Portland and Seattle University, interim president of Carroll College, and superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Seattle. "(We can have) a connection with a genuine, real community. The Church is a big family," he added.

Father Rowan will speak at the annual Celebration of Faith dinner and program hosted by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation. The event, which raises funds for tuition grants for diocesan Catholic school students, parish religious education grants and scholarships to Catholic colleges, will begin with a 5:30 p.m. reception and 6:30 p.m. dinner. Some 26 area businesses and individuals will help sponsor the event.

Father Rowan's remarks will have a tie-in with the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis, he noted in a recent telephone interview.

"Education is a work of mercy," he explained. "It's helping people to learn... giving counsel to the doubtful... helping those who are wondering about their own place in the world."

Another highlight of the Celebration of Faith will be the presentation of Champions of Education awards. Those honored this year with the St. Thomas Aquinas Award for major benefactors

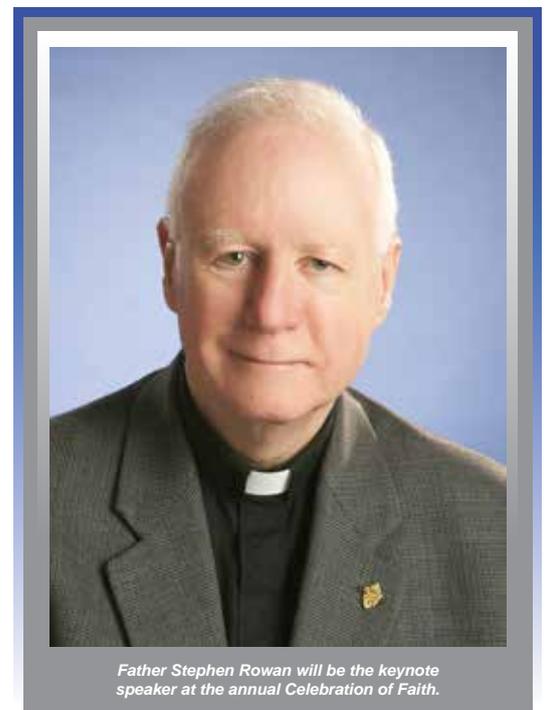


Last year's Celebration of Faith at the Yakima Convention Center drew about 450 people.

include **Don Baker**, Christ the King School in Richland; and **Gary and Barbara Morford**, La Salle High School in Yakima. Receiving the St. John Baptist de La Salle Award for educators in Catholic schools are **Steve Pontarolo**, St. Rose of Lima School, Ephrata; and **Dianne Breeden**, St. Joseph School, Wenatchee. The St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Award for religious education personnel will be given to **Kathy Sharman**, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Grandview; and **Mark and Debbie Roy**, Holy Rosary Parish, Moxee.

The event will be "a gathering of the clan...a way of experiencing the real community that is there that comes together for Catholic education," Father Rowan said.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Kelly Matson, youth director for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Selah. Videos and a performance by a children's choir will round out the evening. Tickets are \$100 per person and may be



Father Stephen Rowan will be the keynote speaker at the annual Celebration of Faith.

reserved by calling (509) 972-3732 or visiting [www.cwcatholicfoundation.org](http://www.cwcatholicfoundation.org) registration.

## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

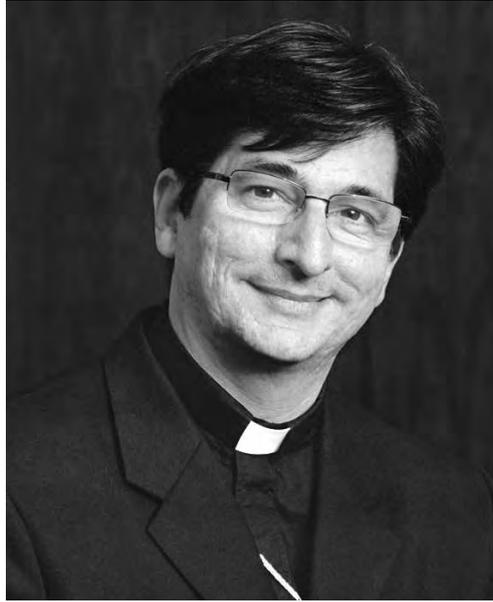
How do we uplift the message of life? Our current issue highlights events in Central Washington continuing through the month of October, a Marian month, in which we uplift the gift of life – especially the gift of the unborn.

Nationally, many leaders rightly focus on the January 22nd anniversary date of Roe vs. Wade and, as many know, I always send out a robust set of links and downloads for each parish to use for their local parish celebrations of Mass for the unborn. I also place those on the website.

But it's also important to remember that in Washington State, even were Roe vs. Wade to be overturned – and God willing it will be one day – nothing changes here. Why? Because Washington State was the only state to have voted by popular ballot to legalize abortion prior to Roe vs. Wade.

This is why I've focused all my energy on positive proposals that will give witness to the wider culture. We have the steep task of needing to build up a culture of life that is beautiful and attractive so that we can bring to our side the current majority of voters who either favor abortion on demand or remain indifferent to the topic.

Our emeritus Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, spoke on a number of occasions about being "a creative minority." That's what you are seeing in many of our efforts in terms of our new "Cornerstone Ministry," tied to PREPARES – the outreach we have



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

to women, their children and their wider families – as well as the pro-life rallies featured in this current issue.

The remote preparation for this culture of life comes from efforts by Father Lalo Barragán and our youth ministers who are organizing our upcoming Diocese of Yakima Youth Convention as well as the great team of volunteers led by Father José Herrera who lead the annual Palm Sunday weekend youth retreat tied to the "World Youth Day" gathering in Rome each year.

As we remember missionaries around the world in the month of October, it's

important for us to remember that we are missionaries in our own local State of Washington – a state that has become hardened and indifferent when it comes to the plight of the unborn, the fragile, the dying.

The bishops of the United States have reminded us on numerous occasions that beginning-of-life issues such as abortion and end-of-life issues such as euthanasia are weighed more heavily than other issues of life and justice, because without the right to life, there are no other human rights and thus no pathway to a wider social justice.

I hope this issue causes you to pause and consider how you are a convincing witness – not simply to those who agree with you – but to those who may favor abortion and may have a very different view from you. How do we create an encounter that allows the natural beauty of the Church's proposal for our culture to shine in brilliance, creating a change of hearts that will lead to a change of mind and a change in favor of the unborn?

Thanks for considering the steep challenges posed by these articles about your fellow Catholics here in the Diocese of Yakima.

With my every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Mission Sunday Will Be Celebrated October 11

Catholics throughout the Diocese of Yakima are invited to celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 11 this year, and call to mind the 1965 Vatican II decree "Ad Gentes," which proclaims, "The pilgrim Church on earth is missionary by its very nature," reminding us that all of us are called to be on mission.

"Every year, we remember in a special way our Baptismal call to mission as we celebrate World Mission Sunday," noted Yakima Bishop Joseph Tyson. Parishes on this Sunday also will take up the annual World Mission Collection, to aid the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis writes, "Mission is part of the 'grammar' of faith, something essential for those who listen to the voice of the Spirit who whispers 'Come' and 'Go forth.' Those who follow Christ cannot fail to be missionaries..."

"Your financial help on World Mission Sunday, offered in the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, supports such efforts in 1,150 young mission dioceses in our world, reaching the poorest communities with a message of hope and healing, mercy and peace," Bishop Tyson said.

## Latin Mass To Be Offered For Life

To observe Respect for Life Month, the Traditional Latin Mass slated for 1:30 p.m., Sunday, October 11 at Holy Family Church in Yakima will be offered for the dignity of human life from conception through death.

All are invited to come to this Mass in the chapel of Holy Family Church at 5315 Tieton Drive, with refreshments served afterwards in the gathering space.

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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# Respect Life Month Resources To Be Available For Everyone

Catholics throughout the Diocese of Yakima will be invited during October's Respect Life Month to reflect more deeply on the value of human life with the help of weekly bulletin and website reflections.

"As a human family, we are each called to care for one another from the moment of conception to natural death," writes Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar of Christ the King Parish in Richland, who also serves as director of the Diocese's Cornerstone Ministry.

"I believe that pain and suffering are a part of life, and we are called to embrace all life, not just a part of it," states the deacon, in a bulletin insert prepared for Respect Life Sunday, October 4. "As a people of God, we have the responsibility and accountability to see every person, no matter how young or old or imperfect, as Jesus sees them. I am called to respect, love, and appreciate everyone I meet. In other words: 'All lives matter.'"

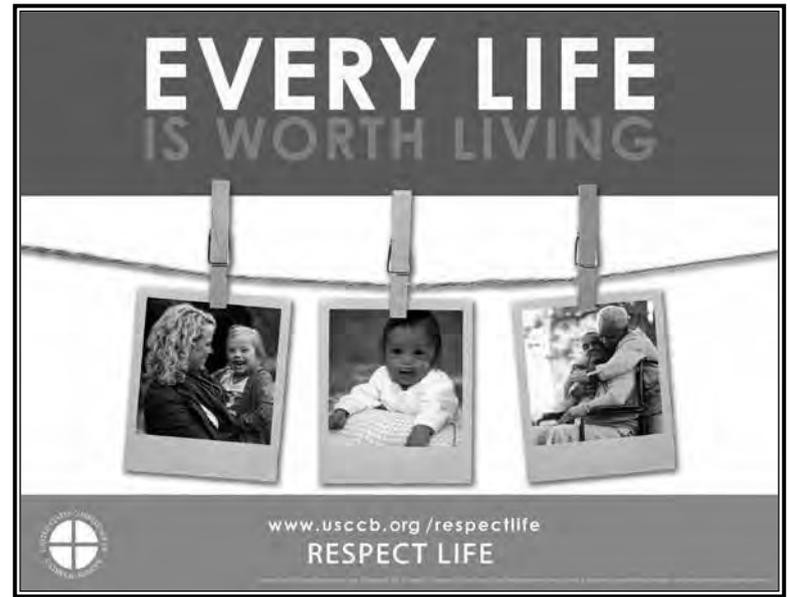
In his reflection, which also will be posted on the diocesan website, the deacon reflects on 15 years of conversations on matters of faith with a colleague from work who was not a believer. Sometimes tense but always respectful, the conversations take a serious turn when the deacon's friend must confront the extra care his mother needs after a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, which leads to nursing home care.

Some who suffer from debilitating injuries are tempted to consider physician-assisted suicide, which voters approved in Washington State seven years ago, notes Deacon Alnajjar. It is a misguided approach, but one that also calls Christians to action to support those who suffer, as well as their loved ones.

"Just to rephrase a statement by Bishop Joseph Tyson that sums it all up: 'If we do not care for the most vulnerable among us, the unborn and the dying, then all lives in between will be compromised,'" the deacon writes. In the end, he notes, his friend and his family eventually chose to care for his mother at home until her death. "And are these not the final actions by a loving, merciful, and respectful family?" he writes. "I believe they epitomize the servant attitude of the family and promote the dignity of life at its finest."

Besides Alnajjar's reflection, others prepared by the organization Healing the Culture will be provided to parishes and posted on the diocesan website. They reflect on a Christian understanding of what quality of life means, uplifting the value of making sacrifices for others, and promoting the value of human life.

Other resources can be found on the Respect Life page of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, at the following address: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/>.



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# NEWS

## From Around the Diocese

### Church Mission Congress Slated

Church Mission Congress 2015, presented by the Diocese of Yakima, is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, October 10, at Holy Family Parish in Yakima.

“Forming Missionaries of Mercy” is the theme of this year’s event which will include prayer and reflection, keynote speakers and workshops in youth ministry, parish social ministry and young adult formation.

October 2 is the deadline for early registration, at a cost of \$15 per person. Registration also will be possible at the door, the day of the event, for \$20. To register, or for more information, visit [www.yakimadiocese.org](http://www.yakimadiocese.org).

### Youth Convention Scheduled for Yakima

“Come As You Are: The Lord Will Lead Us to His Mercy” is the theme of the Yakima Diocese Youth Convention scheduled for November 6-8 at Holy Family Parish in Yakima.

The program will include everything from Masses to breakout discussion sessions, praise and worship music, Reconciliation, Adoration and a presentation by keynote speaker Oscar Rivera, a hip-hop performer and speaker devoted to the New Evangelization.

The cost is \$35 for youth, chaperones or group leaders, by the early registration deadline of October 23. This covers participation in the conference, a tee shirt, lunch and dinner on Saturday and lodging.

For more information, contact Melissa Montenegro at (509) 946-1675, ext. 234 or email [Melissa@ckparish.org](mailto:Melissa@ckparish.org).

### Funeral Held for Father John Morse, S.J.

Funeral services were held September 19 at the Jesuit House Chapel in Spokane for Father John Morse, S.J., 85, who was pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake and Queen of All Saints Parish in Warden from 1994-2007.

Father Morse died August 9. He was born December 27, 1929 and entered the Society of Jesus on September 18, 1948. He was ordained June 17, 1961 and took final vows on August 15, 1964.

Father was recovering from a broken pelvis suffered in a fall in his room at the Jesuit Regis Community in Spokane. In addition, he had been receiving chemotherapy for leukemia. He died at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane.

Through the years, Father Morse also served in other parishes in the Spokane, Boise and Yakima dioceses, including St. Joseph Parish in Yakima, and as Administrator of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Granger.

He is survived by three nieces: Mary Jo Lazarus, Linda Kinshella and Christine Olson.

May Father Morse and all of our departed clergy members rest in peace.

## Rallies Throughout Diocese Call For An End To Abortion

Catholics from throughout the Diocese of Yakima joined together to stand up for life and to call for an end to abortion at rallies held in five cities in August.

Gatherings held in Wenatchee, Kennewick, Walla Walla, Ellensburg and Yakima drew more than 400 people who peacefully prayed and held signs urging respect for human life from the moment of conception. It was all part of an August 22 day of calling for de-funding of Planned Parenthood, which performs abortions at many of its clinics, with rallies scheduled for more than 300 cities nationwide.

“The most encouraging thing was how many brand new pro-lifers attended,” said Teresa Drollman, a member of St. Joseph Parish and organizer for the Wenatchee rally which was held at Memorial Park. “We had 116 attend, including two new churches who are eager to be involved...” In addition to local residents, folks came from Tonasket, Moses Lake, Ephrata, Leavenworth and Chelan, she said.

“Lots of new pro-life people came, along with many long-time people,” agreed Nancy Murray, a member of Christ the King Parish and pro-life advocate from Richland who has been active in helping women who have had abortions find healing and forgiveness in their lives. “There were about 150 (people) in Kennewick and the (preliminary) count was over 77,000 nationwide,” she said. The local group stood on Columbia Drive near Planned Parenthood where abortions are performed.

“I couldn’t believe the love and care that was there (at the rally). They really cared about how important life is,” added Winnie Zeamer, a member of Christ the King Parish and rally organizer. She noted that a “great variety of Christians” joined in.

“For me, it was important to be brave and to let other people know that I think this (abortion) is a travesty,” said Kimberly Fazzari, a member of Assumption Parish who attended the Walla Walla rally. “I needed to make a more public statement to stand up and say to the community that this is wrong.”

The “very calm, very prayerful” rally, across the street from a Planned Parenthood clinic, drew nearly 70 people, including “lots and lots of children,” Fazzari said.

Bea Cates, a member of St. Andrew Parish, who joined about 35 others in the Ellensburg gathering for life, noted that there was a “strong sense of camaraderie” that day, knowing that people across the nation were holding rallies.

“We were out in front of Planned Parenthood to make people aware how important it was to stand together,” she said. “We were there to support each other in our agenda to de-fund Planned Parenthood, to save the babies and to educate everyone.”

In Yakima, pro-life rallies were held August 19 and also several weeks earlier at Planned Parenthood, attracting some 60 participants. As in other communities, Catholic parishioners were joined by Christians from other local churches.

“Faith is a gift, but you have to nourish it,” observed Greg Sherman, a member of Holy Family Parish and long-time advocate for the rights of the unborn, who joined in the Yakima rallies.

Citing leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, and the great battles on issues from voting rights to civil rights which have been fought through the years, Sherman stressed the importance of a visible witness for moral principles.

He credits the “peaceful, prayerful, persistent” approach of leaders such as Gandhi and King for their success.



The Ellensburg rally for life featured a huge rosary. -Photo courtesy of Bea Cates



Lydia Veder (foreground) and a friend stood for life in Kennewick. -Photo courtesy of Nancy Murray



A father and his baby relayed a message for life in Wenatchee. -Photo courtesy of Teresa Drollman



The rally in Wenatchee stretched out along Memorial Park. -Photo courtesy of Teresa Drollman