



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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OCTOBER 2016 *Newsletter*

Love and Faith Win Out Over Abortion for Kennewick Woman and Son

By Christine Corbett Conklin

With his shining dark eyes and impish grin, Juanito Martinez is living proof that love and faith can win out over abortion. He's the perfect poster child for the month of October, with its Respect Life theme.

Juanito's mother, Maria Ines Martinez, a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, came to understand the true evil of abortion after going through the procedure with two previous pregnancies.



Photo courtesy of Ines Martinez

Juanito Martinez enjoys his gift of life.

"I have a scar, a spiritual scar in myself," observed the mother of six living children. "Afterwards, I felt that my hands were empty, my body was empty. I felt like a soul pain. I knew that I will never have it (that child) again."

Maria Ines, who goes by "Ines," said that she felt much societal pressure to have her two abortions at Planned Parenthood in 2005 and 2007.

"I was told by people, 'You have no job, so many children...It's your fault,' she recalled. "I felt like I was alone...I didn't know that there were any resources for me to reach out to." There was even pressure being exerted by a family member.

Afterwards, "it was challenging to forgive myself, to find peace," she said. "I knew I had to seek the highest power, to seek God."

Along the way, Ines met Nancy Murray of Richland, a parishioner of Christ the

King Parish and dedicated pro-life advocate. Nancy, who once served with a Project Rachel team, offers one-day "Healing Light" retreats to help women find forgiveness and healing following abortion. Ines attended one such retreat and began to experience new hope.

When Ines found out, in early 2013, that she was pregnant with Juanito, she felt very protective of the new life within her and tried to hide her pregnancy for several months.

"I had a fear that I may be pressured into an abortion (again)," she said. However, "I talked to people to help me out and they did," she recalled, and courage began welling within her.

"I was completely trusting in God," she said. "I abandoned myself to God...I was completely happy, knowing that I was going along with the life."

Although she still had the challenges of caring for a large family with her husband, Juan, Ines persevered, at last giving birth to Juanito in December of 2013.

"As soon as I found out he was a boy, I consecrated him to God, to the Blessed Virgin Mary," Ines said. "At the funeral for Monsignor (Desmond) Dillon, I prayed to him to bless and protect his (Juanito's) vocation." Perhaps this little blessing will become a priest one day, she muses.

"Since he was a baby, he put his hands together and pray (sic)," she said with a smile.

Today, as he approaches his third birthday, Juanito "brings joy to the whole family. He has a lot of energy. He's so happy all the time. He light(s) up a room," Ines said.

And Ines has become an active pro-life advocate, volunteering at Hope Medical in Kennewick and speaking out against abortion at events such as 40 Days for Life rallies.

To any woman considering abortion, Ines suggests, "Trust in God. Know that she is a strong woman and she can work with

her pregnancy, no matter the difficulties that may hold her back, what anybody can say. What is happening is completely meant to be. She's stronger than she thinks."

Ines also advises women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancies "to get resources."

A few such resources within the Diocese of Yakima include: the PREPARES pregnancy and parenting support program at www.preparesforlife.org/contact; Catholic Family & Child Service/Catholic Charities offices in Yakima, Richland and Walla Walla; and local Catholic parishes, most of which have directories of nearby individuals and groups offering assistance. Birthright also has a 24-hour, toll-free help line: (800) 550-4900.



Photo courtesy of Nancy Murray

Ines Martinez held Juanito on the day of his birth.

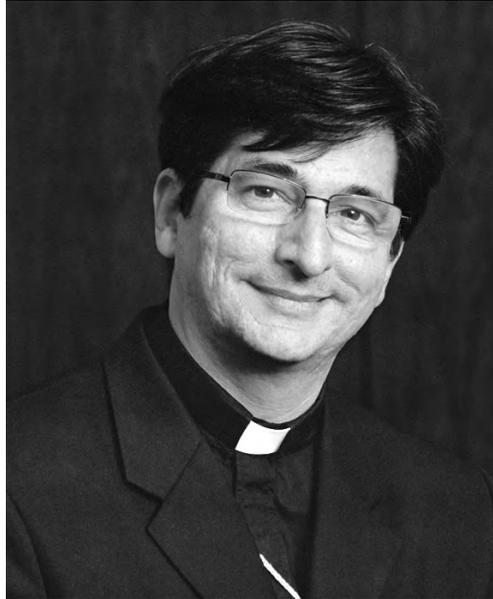
Ines couldn't be happier that she chose life for Juanito. She hopes to help other women considering abortion to find "another vision" that will save them the anguish she experienced.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

In past issues, we've featured major stories about our efforts to uplift the gift of life – especially through our Church's state-wide initiative, PREPARES – but I hope this issue gives you a sense of how much we desire to reach out to women and their families. The choice of life requires enormous support and efforts.

Note well: there is more to saving a baby than stopping an abortion. Issues of emotional and material support and the capacity to walk the journey of life with the woman and whatever family she may have are key. Here in the city of Yakima, over 85 percent of the student enrollment comes from the Hispanic community. Here in Central Washington, Yakima's numbers are not unique. As a result, across the Diocese, our families find themselves in a variety of legal situations. As a Church we want to express our concern for ALL the unborn – regardless of the family's legal status. Increasingly it's become apparent that in order to protect the unborn, we must



Bishop Joseph Tyson

defend the immigrant, including the undocumented.

Language, attitudes and public policies that denigrate the immigrant, the migrant, the foreigner and the outsider run the risk of costing the lives of unborn children. When pro-life efforts are

more anchored in political parties than Church teachings, a climate of fear creates a barrier for the Church to reach out to women and families when they face the crucial decision of carrying a child to full term.

Issues of life, issues of justice and issues of poverty come together, making the right to life of the unborn the cornerstone justice issue today. This means that it's not enough to be against abortion, and in fact, the failure to take seriously the Church's teachings on immigration, poverty and social justice will undermine our efforts to stop abortion.

I hope you will join me in not only applauding the efforts of those who support the life of the unborn, but work to create an environment of dignity, welcome and trust in the communities that are most responsible for bringing forth the gift of life.

With every best wish and blessing,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

New Monument to the Unborn Graces Cemetery

A new monument, honoring the unborn whose lives have been lost, now graces the grounds of Calvary Cemetery on South 24th Avenue in Yakima.

The monument, which is a gift of an anonymous donor, is in the form of a steel, eight-foot tree with steel leaves welded on. A single piece of slate wraps around the tree, bearing a quote from Jeremiah 1:5, "Before you were born, I set you apart."

The structure is dedicated to the memory of Michael McGladery and Alec

Heneghen, both deceased.

Located in the northern section of the cemetery, in an area dedicated to the unborn, the new monument offers comfort to parents who have lost a child through miscarriage, said Father Darell Mitchell, cemetery director. Over 1,000 little ones who were miscarried are already buried in this area, he said.

"It's a reminder that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, no matter how long we live, that human life has inherent value in and of itself," Father added. "We believe we will be reunited with our loved ones (in eternity)."

The monument, which was installed in June, is the latest addition to the cemetery. A new columbarium, with 244 niches dedicated to safekeeping of cremated remains, was completed in fall 2015.

Father Mitchell said that he also would like to refinish the veterans' memorial where Mass is held each Memorial Day. Contributions to the cemetery are welcomed for this purpose.



Photo courtesy of Father Darell Mitchell

The monument to the unborn.

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

Mass for Deceased Priests Planned

Don't forget that the annual Mass for Deceased Priests is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 22, at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima.

All are welcome to come and pray for the souls of the many priests and bishops who have faithfully served the Diocese of Yakima through the years.

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Annual Catholic Appeal Provides Crucial Support

“Giving in Gratitude – Sharing God’s Gifts across Central Washington” is the theme of the upcoming 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal for the Diocese of Yakima, with the pledge weekend scheduled for November 5 and 6.

“Because of the many gifts we have received from God, we in turn seek ways to give back to our faith community by generously sharing ourselves and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others,” said Bishop Joseph Tyson.

“Some of us go to Mass in Spanish. Some of us go to Mass in English. Some of us have roots in the German or French speaking world of our parents and grandparents. Others of us have roots in Mexico,” Bishop Tyson said in a recent letter to Catholics throughout the Diocese. “Some of us have been here for centuries being in the Yakama Nation or one of the other tribes. But – and this is key – we are all called to give in gratitude and share God’s gifts.”

The goal for the 2017 ACA, which funds much of the Diocesan Pastoral Center’s ministries and services, is \$1,594,821, up \$29,293 from the 2016 campaign. This reflects a small increase in Sunday giving in the parishes, as each parish’s goal for the ACA is set at 16 percent of the regular Sunday income from the previous fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

For the 2016 campaign, as of September 30, total pledges of \$2.15 million had been made, with \$1.93 million collected. Income to the Diocese was just \$33,404 short of the \$1.56 million goal. Anything received over a parish’s goal is returned in the form of a rebate, so parishes were in line to receive a total of \$395,001, with the potential for an additional \$202,773, should all pledges be fulfilled.

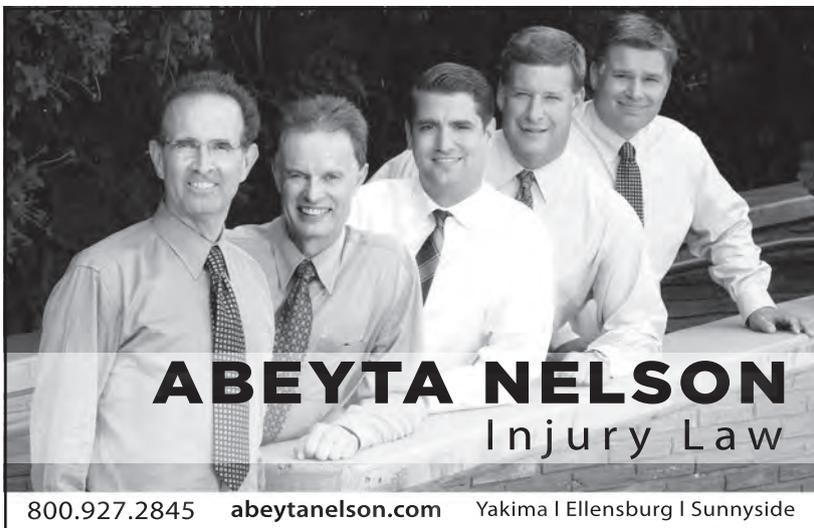
“The amount you give comes from your prayer. It does not matter how little or how much you give! What matters is that you give a sufficient amount so that you are challenged to change your spending habits,” Bishop Tyson said in his letter. “Why? Because ultimately the Annual Catholic Appeal is not about money. It is about ‘Giving in Gratitude - Sharing God’s Gifts across Central Washington.’”

These crucial funds help to support five major areas throughout our Diocese:

■ **Catholic Schools.** In what you return to the Lord through the ACA, you make possible for 2,045 students a broad range of services and resources which ensure that our Catholic schools are better able to meet the challenges before them. By doing so, you contribute to the essential mission for the Church: Professional Development for Educators, Monthly Principal Formation Program, Annual October Teacher Excellence Day, and Accreditation Support.

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Your Gift Matters!



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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Dinner to Benefit St. Joseph/Marquette —

The annual Fresh Catch salmon dinner, auction and dance benefiting St. Joseph/Marquette Catholic School in Yakima is slated for Saturday, November 5 at La Salle High School.

Tickets are \$65 per person for this fundraiser, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. for the social hour.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.sjmms.org or call (509) 575-5557.

St. Joseph School, Wenatchee, Sets Crab Feed —

The annual crab feed benefiting St. Joseph School in Wenatchee is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., November 5, in Kuykendall Hall on the parish campus.

The menu will include all-you-can-eat cracked crab plus spaghetti, salad and bread. Cost is \$35 for age 13 and over, \$10 for ages 5-12, with free admission for age 4 and under.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact the school at (509) 663-2644.

Seminar to Address 'Wounds of Abortion' —

"Pregnancy Loss and Unresolved Grief: Healing After Abortion" is the theme of a training seminar planned for December 2 and 3 at the Red Lion Hotel in Wenatchee.

The seminar will offer a general overview, free to the public, plus team training, clergy training and clinical training for continuing education units.

The presenter will be Theresa Burke, PhD, the founder of Rachel's Vineyard and internationally recognized expert on healing for those who have experienced pregnancy loss and are dealing with grief.

All are welcome to attend, including clergy, social workers, therapists, counselors, nurses, pregnancy resource center workers, pastoral care personnel, spiritual directors, youth and young adult ministry workers and other interested individuals. The seminar is designed to equip those on the front lines of the community with a wealth of knowledge regarding post-abortion issues. The gathering also provides an overview of the Rachel's Vineyard retreat process.

Although this seminar is offered free as a public service, a good-will offering of \$25 is appreciated. For more information, call Lisa at (509) 421-7847 or email rvwenatchee@gmail.com. Registration deadline is November 25.

Catholic Education: A Proud Tradition Worth Passing Along —

Sometimes, Catholics get "a bad rap" in society and the news media because of the Church's stands on issues of morality and sexuality.

However, we must remember that "at the heart of Catholicism is Jesus of Nazareth" and "a rich tradition of prayer and ritual." That's a proud heritage well worth passing on to the next generations, observed Father Patrick Howell, S.J., the keynote speaker at the recent Celebration of Faith in Yakima.



Father Patrick Howell, S.J., addressed attendees at the Celebration of Faith event.

"Catholic schools and our parish education programs are the backbone" of passing along our Faith to our children, noted the professor of Seattle University's Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture. Addressing a crowd of more than 575 people at the Central Washington Catholic Foundation's annual fundraiser at the Yakima Convention Center, Father Howell commended the teachers and staff who "sacrifice a great deal of their lives" to make our communities better places.

He singled out a few of the great Catholic teachers who make up the "litany" of our educational history, from Mother Joseph riding on horseback to his own favorite seventh grade teacher, Sister Germaine Marie, whom he described as a "pistol."

Father Howell recalled how, at the age of seven, he was wandering through the woods near his uncle's farm when he "suddenly felt a presence around me" – a sense that God was near. "That sacred moment has stayed with me all my life," he said. "Children often have profound religious experiences and need a place to share them," he added, referring to Catholic education classes.

Where else but in Catholic classes could a child write a letter to God? He recounted a few excerpts from some of his favorite letters that children had written. One child wondered why God didn't just keep the people he had instead of letting them die and needing to make "new ones." Another noted, "I didn't think that orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made. That was cool!"

In many other ways, too, "our system of education works," Father Howell said. For example, "statistically, in the United States, 95 percent of children who attend Catholic schools graduate from high school."

New "partnerships," including philanthropic efforts, are necessary to "continue the legacy," he suggested.

"I salute the work of teachers, administrators, pastors.....Thanks to each and all (of you)," he concluded.



Members of the children's choir from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Selah sang of faith.

Annual Catholic Appeal *Continued from page 3*

■ **Vocations.** Your Appeal gift supports the effort to ensure that there will be priests and deacons to sustain and nurture the sacramental life of our parishes: Vocations recruitment, Seminary Formation, English Language Formation, Deacon Formation, and Religious Women.

■ **Catechesis, Lay Formation and Evangelization.** Your support makes it possible for the Diocese to prepare leaders at the parish level who teach over 6,753 students each year and brought over 3,024 men and women last year into full initiation with the Catholic Faith. This daily pursuit of holiness occurs as a result of: Religious Education, Magnificat Formation Program, Sister's Exchange, Migrant Ministry, Central Washington Catholic Newsletter, and Church Mission Congress.

■ **Ministry to Families, Youth and Young Adults.** Due to the generosity of donors like you, an expansive array of ministry programs is made available from Sunday to Sunday for families – at all stages of life – in the parishes and on a diocesan level: Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry at Central Washington University, Gang Ministry, Cornerstone Ministry, Tribunal, Marriage Preparation Programs, and Baptismal Preparation Training.

■ **Parish Needs.** Through your support of the ACA, you partner with the Diocese and your parish in the daily efforts to provide programs and services: Support for Poor Parishes, Parish Visitations, and Maintaining St. Joseph Mission at Ahtanum Creek.