



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

MAY 2018 Newsletter

The Blessed Virgin Mary: A Role Model for Us All

By Christine Corbett Conklin

She is arguably the most famous woman in history. Yet, there is still so much that we don't understand about the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In this month of honoring Mary – and all mothers – Very Reverend Michael Ibach, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Yakima, took time to sort out what we do know about the Mother of God, and what is clearly fiction.

First of all, Mary was a human being, Father Ibach noted. We do not worship her, as we do God. And we do not worship statues of her, which are simply “representations of the person” or reminders of someone we greatly admire.

“Because of her willingness to be the Mother of Christ, we venerate her, we respect her,” he explained. “She’s a model, hopefully, of how we’re responding (to God).”

There is some confusion about Mary, from the very beginning of her life. For instance, when we hear talk of the “Immaculate Conception,” many people think of Christ’s conception as a human being. However, the term actually refers to Mary’s origins.

“We believe that Mary was conceived without sin because of what God was calling her to do: become the Mother of Christ,” Father said. “God had a special role in mind for her.”

The Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8, is just one of several Holy Days of Obligation honoring Mary, on which Catholics are obliged to attend Mass, just as we are on Sundays. Others are on August 15, the feast of Mary’s Assumption into Heaven, and January 1, when we celebrate her Motherhood of God.

There is also much interest in whether or not Mary gave birth to children other than Jesus Christ. Biblical



verses that mention “brothers,” for example, help to spur this question.

“We believe that Mary’s only child was Jesus,” Father Ibach clarified. The thinking in biblical days was more of a “tribal mentality,” referring to the Tribe of Benjamin or the Tribe of Judah, for example. In that sense, members of the same tribe, perhaps cousins, were regarded as brothers and sisters, even though they may not have had the same mother and father. Today, we tend to think in terms of direct bloodlines, he said.

And what about those appearances of Mary from Lourdes to Fatima to Medjugorje? Did they really happen or were they just an illusion?

The Church takes its time to investigate such reported apparitions, Father Ibach noted. Extensive research is done on the witnesses – and also on whether an apparition has had a positive effect on a witness, deepening his or her Faith and causing the individual to promote the Faith.

Apparitions such as those in Lourdes, France; Fatima, Portugal; and Guadalupe, Mexico, have been well

documented and the sites visited by leaders of the Catholic Church, he said. For example, Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis have all journeyed to Fatima. Apparitions including Medjugorje are still under scrutiny.

And what of the end of Mary’s earthly life? Did she die like other human beings?

The Bible doesn’t tell us much about Mary’s life after the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, except to suggest that she went to live with the apostle John, Father explained. So, there is not a lot of information to go on.

However, “we don’t have anybody else like Mary, conceived without sin,” he said. And since death is “the wages of sin,” it is believed that “death wouldn’t touch her.” The belief is that she was so cooperative with God, He rewarded her as the first (and only) person to be taken directly to Heaven without experiencing death of the body. There are just not clear details on this.

Whatever the circumstances for her assumption into Heaven, Mary remains “very contemporary for us,” Father Ibach stressed. “If we really check the scriptures, Mary had a really hard life.” She was no doubt mocked for the conception of Christ, with Joseph at first wanting to separate from her. She gave birth in a rustic stable. Along with Joseph and Jesus, she had to flee to Egypt and remain there among strangers for several years. She led a life in or near poverty. Her husband died. She saw her Son suffer terribly and die.

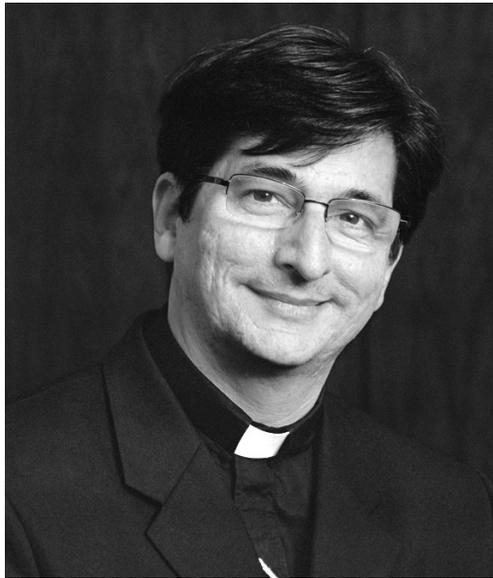
“She trusted, rather than succumb to the bad experiences in her life,” Father said. “I think that is what she is still encouraging us: look to my Son . . . In the circumstances in which we find ourselves, who do we turn to but God?”

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

“Be what you see, believe what you are!” That’s the rough translation from Latin of a famous line from one of the fourth century homilies by the great St. Augustine: “Estote quod videtis, et accipite quod estis.” Our annual round of first communions, confirmations, baptisms of children in our Easter season and even our many quinceañeras suggest that at the core of the Christian life is this movement toward becoming the person God intends us to be.

We see parallel signs in nature of this very reality. I have a picture in my office of my mom on horseback with one of our cousins – Sonny Goeffrey – a long-time parishioner at Resurrection Catholic Church in Zillah. Elsa – his deceased wife – sent me the photo. She and my mom would talk for hours and hours on the phone. What’s most notable about the photo is that Sonny is sticking his tongue out at the camera. It’s my favorite photo in my office. It shows both my mom and Sonny as spirited youths. Today, both my mom and Sonny are in their 80s. But Sonny still inspects the cherries on his farm. As I gaze out on my own single cherry tree here I am aware that the tree exists all year around in order to produce the annual crop of fruit. Water and sunlight bring forth the crop. Those



Bishop Joseph Tyson

wonderful cherries on Sonny’s farm are a kind of annual miracle.

This is even more true when it comes to our spiritual life. In the same way water and light make the cherry trees grow, Jesus Christ – the very face of God – sends us His Spirit poured out like water and light to help us grow and blossom into the persons God made us to be. No wonder water and light are primary symbols in baptism. We see an echo of this in our funeral ritual as well. In the same way we pour water over an infant,

we sprinkle holy water on our deceased loved one at the beginning of every funeral. In the same way, just as an infant is clothed in white at baptism, we place a white funeral pall over the caskets of our deceased loved ones as a reminder of the final desired destination of all the baptized: eternal life with Christ.

This is what made celebrating the recent funeral of our Father Thomas Lane so especially moving. Over a lifetime, he blossomed and grew into the person God desired him to be: a priest of the Church for the Diocese of Yakima. Indeed each of this month’s articles and events in the *Central Washington Catholic* provides a snapshots of our growth, becoming the Church God desires us to be. I am so very grateful to so many of you who shared your faith journey with Fr. Thomas Lane. I am so grateful for you as you share your Faith through the daily activities of life in our Church. I am so grateful for the many ways you live the challenge articulated by St. Augustine: “Be what you see and believe what you are!”

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Communication Tip: Finding Focused Time with Your Teen

Courtesy of the Virtus Program

One of the major dilemmas of the digital age seems to be fairly universal: how can we avoid the constant distraction of devices when it’s time to focus on something important? Parent-child relationships definitely fall in the important category, particularly as children grow into pre-teens and teenagers and spend more time away from the family than before.

Sure, sometimes we need to take that call for work, or send back a quick email or message on a pressing question. However, most of us can admit that establishing some boundaries for ourselves could help create time and space to spend on more focused conversations with the kids in our care.

Some boundary ideas include:

- Turning off the radio, your podcast, or audio book when you pick up your child. Time in the car can be an optimal time to hear what is new with them, to listen and reconnect with them.
- Establish set times to be on a digital device. Rather than giving unfettered access to their Smartphones, tablets and computers, think through their daily schedule (perhaps even with them). What times

does it make sense for them to have time to study or connect with friends vs. what time should they put the devices away and spend time engaging with family?

- Turn off and/or charge all phones during dinner (this means yours too!). My mother used to say growing up that there was no reason to answer the phone during dinner if her family was safe and sitting right there with her. Eating together without devices will encourage family conversation and the daily opportunity to connect with one another.

- Turn your own phone off for important conversations. Signal to your children or teens that they are much more important to you than the latest notification on your phone. Deliberately put your phone on silent and out of reach, and spend time with them. When you do need to check something or take a call, let them know first. This simple practice shows respect for them and will encourage them to show others similar courtesy.

Technology will be around for a long time (and so will our Facebook friends!) but we all know that kids are only young

for so long. Avoid taking these moments for connection for granted by limiting distraction and focusing on the person in front of you.

Note: Virtus provides training materials to many dioceses in the United States to help develop and maintain safe environments for minors and vulnerable adults.

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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

Special Collection Assists Retired Priests and Seminarians of Diocese

By Sandra Bogusalwski - Annual Catholic Appeal Bookkeeper, Diocese of Yakima

With summer soon upon us, many young people are looking forward to time away from schoolwork. However, for the seminarians of the Diocese of Yakima, work is just beginning. Each summer, after finishing their studies for the year, they return to oversee and administer various ministries for the people of Central Washington. This includes visiting each parish within the Diocese of Yakima to meet with the people who are supporting them through the seminary and who will be their future parishioners. Support comes in many forms. While your financial contributions carry our seminarians through the expenses of tuition, books, housing and healthcare, your gifts of prayer carry these young men spiritually in their vocations.

During this year's parish visits, June 1 to July 29, the seminarians will invite you to participate in the *Special Collection for Retired Priests and Seminarians*. This important collection is a once-a-year effort to specifically

raise funds for the priests who have faithfully served us for many years as well as the young men who are called by God to take over this vital role in the future.

Today, our Church faces a near crisis as fewer and fewer young men answer the call to the priesthood. We are blessed to have up to **14 men** who will be studying for the priesthood in the fall of 2018! You have the power to help these young men become the new leaders of our local Church. With your support, they will be here for you and future generations.

Seminarian education is one of the largest expenses for our Diocese. For the coming school year alone, we are projected to need **\$712,200**, which is about \$50,900 per seminarian.

collection raised \$247,017 in 2017! Our goal for this year is **\$300,000**, which will help cover the cost of six seminarians for one year.

With your help this summer, we can bring new life to our Church by fostering the vocations of the young men called by God to serve in our Diocese. Online donations can be made at www.yakimadiocese.org by selecting the "Donations" menu and then clicking on the "Priest Retirement/Seminarian Education Collection." Details regarding the dates when a seminarian will be visiting your parish will be posted in your local bulletin and on the Diocese website. You may also contact Alma Benitez, Director of Stewardship & Development for the Diocese of Yakima, at (509) 365-5299 with further questions. Please reach out with generosity through this collection to our retired priests and seminarians, who have generously dedicated their lives to the spiritual well-being of each person within the Diocese of Yakima.

Champions of Catholic Education

Announcing the 2018 Special Honoree
Msgr. John Ecker



Who is inspiring the youth in your parish?

Nomination categories include Catholic School Teacher, DRE or Catechist, and Benefactor or Volunteer.

Nomination deadline is **July 1st**.

Awards will be presented during the Celebration of Faith on October 13th. For more information or to make a nomination, contact the Central Washington Catholic Foundation at www.cwatholicfoundation.org or (509) 972-3732.

We take your injury personally.™

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Garden Gala to Benefit Youth

You can support Catholic Charities' outreach to homeless youth by attending the Garden Gala, Yakima's premier garden-themed celebration, on Friday, June 22, at Cascade Gardens, 5704 W. Washington Ave.

Sponsored by Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington and presented by Banner Bank, the event will feature a catered dinner, local wine and beer, a dessert dash and entertainment. Tickets, \$75 each, may be requested at (509) 853-1303. The event is for those 21 and older.

The social service arm of the Diocese of Yakima, Catholic Charities, has a long tradition of caring for people throughout Central Washington, helping individuals of all ages, faiths, ethnic backgrounds and income levels, with special concern for the neediest and most vulnerable.

Ahtanum Mission Fund Drive Begins

A fund drive is beginning to finance preservation and upkeep of the Yakima Valley's historic Catholic treasure, the Ahtanum Mission.

Dating to the mid-1800s with the arrival of French priests who were Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the site southwest of the City of Yakima hosts seasonal weekly Mass, weddings, reunions and picnics in a park-like setting.

Historic buildings needing attention at this site on the National Historic Register include an 1867 log church and rectory.

Contributions may be sent to: Ahtanum Mission Project, c/o The Diocese of Yakima, 5301 Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908.

Register Now for Catholic Youth Camp

Time is running out to register for a Central Washington Catholic Youth Camp scheduled for August 19-24 at YMCA Camp Dudley, west of Yakima near White Pass.

This is a quality, week-long summer camping experience for those between the ages of 10 and 18. It will include daily Mass and the Rosary; Stations of the Cross; Reconciliation; the presence of priests, sisters and seminarians; daily Faith talks; plus songs and games, swimming, canoeing, rock climbing, a zipline, and campfire every night.

To reserve a place or to learn more, visit cwcyc.org, and/or "like" our Facebook page, [CWCYCclick](https://www.facebook.com/CWCYCclick). The cost is \$300 per camper, although scholarships may be available.

Holy Land Pilgrimage Planned

A 10-day, Catholic pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled for early next year.

Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar will lead a group to numerous sites featured in the life of Jesus Christ, from February 18-27. They will visit the Road to Emmaus, the birthplace of Jesus and His baptismal site, the Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Mount of Transfiguration, Cana, Jerusalem, the Garden of Gethsemane and site of the Crucifixion.

To receive additional information, send your mailing address to Deacon Alnajjar at dmikhail925@gmail.com. Early registration will merit a special offer.

Father Thomas Lane, Veteran Priest of the Diocese of Yakima, Dies

Father Thomas Lane, a longtime priest of the Diocese of Yakima, died May 11 at the Cottage in the Meadow hospice in Yakima at the age of 90. The Mass of Christian Burial was held May 17 at Holy Family Church, with burial following at Calvary Cemetery, both in Yakima.

Born on All Saints Day, November 1, 1927, to parents who had emigrated from Ireland, Father Lane grew up in the Seattle area. Following graduation from high school in 1945, he entered the U.S. Air Force and served for over a year in Japan during the military occupation after World War II.

He later received a B.A. degree in Chemical Engineering from Seattle University and completed graduate studies at the University of Washington. He then worked on the Hanford Reservation until 1958.

Father Lane entered St. Philip Neri Seminary for Delayed Vocations in Boston, later finishing his theological studies at St. Thomas Seminary in Kenmore, Washington. He also received a teaching certificate from Seattle University. He was ordained a priest in 1964 at St. Paul Cathedral.

Father taught higher mathematics at Yakima's Central Catholic High School from 1964-68 and served on the faculty of St. Peter the Apostle Seminary in Cowiche from 1965-68. He served as an associate pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Quincy, St. John Parish in Naches, St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima and Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake. He was pastor of St. Peter Parish (now St. Juan Diego) in Cowiche, Holy Trinity Parish in Goldendale and Holy Rosary Parish in Moxee. As a senior priest, he was in residence at Holy Family Parish for many years, later moving to Hillcrest at Summitview Assisted Living in Yakima.

Shortly before his death, Father Lane was hospitalized after suffering a couple of falls while recovering from the flu.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Eleanor Lane, numerous nieces and nephews, and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Please keep Father Lane and all of our departed clergy and religious in your prayers. May they rest in peace.



Father Thomas Lane

Central Washington Catholic Foundation Announces Scholarship Awards

The Central Washington Catholic Foundation has announced the award of four college scholarships to area youth.

Celebration of Faith awards, at \$3,000 each, have been given to **Gaelen McPartland**, a graduating senior at Warden High School in Grant County, and **Konner Sauve**, who will be a senior at Gonzaga University.

McPartland has participated in the running start program at Big Bend Community College, where he has taken upper level classes



Konner Sauve

in math and science. A member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake, he served as captain of his high school varsity basketball team and was a volunteer coach for fourth-grade boys basketball. McPartland will pursue a biology degree at Carroll College in Helena, Montana, with the goal of a career in medicine.

Sauve is a double major in Psychology (with a research concentration) and English (with a writing concentration), and has a minor in Leadership Studies through the Gonzaga University Comprehensive Leadership Program (CLP). He plans to go on to graduate school, seeking a career as a counselor or education specialist.

In a third award by the Foundation, Hanah Singco, a graduate of Yakima's La Salle High School, was named recipient of the Mary Ellen Chott-Mahre Scholarship. Singco, who served as a campus minister at La Salle, youth group leader for St. Paul Cathedral's Spy Edge program and senior team captain for La Salle tennis, plans to attend Gonzaga University as a Biology major. She has a goal of entering the physical therapy field.



Gaelen McPartland



Hanah Singco



Rosario Jazmin Ruiz Gonzalez

In a fourth award, Rosario Jazmin Ruiz Gonzalez, was named as recipient of the John Rodriguez Kranz Scholarship. A graduate of A.C. Davis High School in Yakima, she was a member of the Interact Club, ASB leadership and National Honor Society, among other activities. She plans to attend Heritage University to study Nursing, with the goal of becoming a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

Congratulations to these outstanding young people who are the beneficiaries of the Central Washington Catholic Foundation's educational outreach in our communities.