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JUNE 2018 Newsletter

Saint Joseph: Demonstrating Timeless Lessons for Fathers Everywhere

By Christine Corbett Conklin

There are countless books, prayers and devotions honoring Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Yet what about St. Joseph, the noble yet enigmatic, adoptive father of Jesus?

In this month of honoring fathers, Very Reverend Michael Ibach, Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Yakima, shed some light on the man he calls “the silent partner of Mary”.

“St. Joseph never says a word in Scripture,” Father Ibach points out. However, this holy man taught us many lessons by the way he lived his life, setting a timeless example for fathers everywhere.

From the first mentions of St. Joseph, we learn that his life was not an easy one, Father Ibach observed. This humble carpenter from the Tribe of Judah learned that the woman to whom he was betrothed was expecting a child. Should he divorce her? Would she be stoned for what people were sure to regard as a sin punishable by death? What would people think of him?

“He really was a discerning person,” Father noted. “He must have loved Mary. He wanted to keep her from being harmed, and save his own reputation. He was questioning what would be God’s will. He wanted a sign from God, and the angel appeared.”

Once Joseph knew God’s will for him, he showed tremendous perseverance in moving forward.

“It’s a beautiful lesson for us,” Father



Ibach said. “It’s easy to give up when we face difficult situations. Joseph took time, was patient, discerned what God wanted, then embraced it fully He seemed to be fully engaged in the family.”

As time progressed, and it became necessary to flee to Egypt from King Herod, Joseph continued his role as protector of his family, Father suggested. He also showed great love for his little family.

“Joseph demonstrated a determination to be a good father, a good husband,” Father said.

And as Jesus grew in wisdom and in

grace, St. Joseph was there to teach his son the carpentry trade: a useful skill for Him to learn.

“He did everything a father does for a son,” Father Ibach observed.

As a devout Jew, Joseph also appears to have been “not just a friend” to Jesus, but someone who offered “moral leadership,” guiding Him, leading Him through the example of his own moral life.

“They (Joseph and Mary) taught Him, obviously, to do the will of God They gave Him the foundation to say “Thy will be done.”

Joseph is believed to have died sometime after Jesus’ 12th birthday, Father said. Although we often think of him as “an old man,” he may not have been much older than Mary, possibly even in his late teens at the time of Jesus’ birth. The average life span in Joseph’s time was about 40 years.

Certain apocryphal books have suggested that Joseph had other children, possibly from a previous marriage. However, this is not the case, Father Ibach explained. Rather, in this time of “tribal mentality,” tribal members could be regarded as “brothers”.

Perhaps there is not a lot said about St. Joseph in the Bible. However, it appears that we have just enough information to be truly inspired by this noble and loving role model for the ages!

Make Mass More Meaningful for Yourself and Others

By Christine Corbett Conklin

(The following information is from a past article in The Central Washington Catholic, based on an interview with Father Rogelio Gutierrez.)

As warmer weather arrives and family schedules become more hectic, it’s a good time to stop and think about how we can make the experience of Mass more meaningful for ourselves and others.

If we think of the Mass as a real privilege, the center of our Catholic Faith, it can make a difference in the way we approach the rite, suggests Father Rogelio Gutierrez, pastor of St. Anne Parish, Bridgeport, and St. Francis De Sales Parish, Chelan.

This mindfulness should begin even

before we walk through the doors of the church. Remember to fast at least an hour before Holy Communion (including gum and mints). Water and medicines can be taken though, and the elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them do not need to fast. Also, dress respectfully in clothing that isn’t too tight, too short or otherwise revealing.

“We don’t need to have fancy clothes,” Father observed, just simple, clean, modest clothing that reminds us that we are coming to the house of God.

If you are really sick – coughing and sneezing a lot, for example – know that you are not required to be at Mass. As a matter

of fact, it can be a kindness to others not to “share” your sickness. Do set aside some time at home, if possible, to pray.

When you do attend Mass, do everything possible to arrive on time, out of respect for God and to avoid being a distraction to others as you push into a pew and get yourself settled.

“We should dedicate one hour to our Lord,” Father said. “Otherwise, we are ignoring our Lord, who is the center of everything.”

God opens His arms to us and welcomes us through the Mass. Let us reflect that spirit of love through consideration for Him and for others.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

The ordination of Kurt Hadley as Deacon begins the final phase of his formation to the priesthood. One of the more beautiful gestures – unique to the Rite of Ordination of Deacons – is when, as bishop, I hand the newly ordained deacon the book of the Gospels, saying these words:

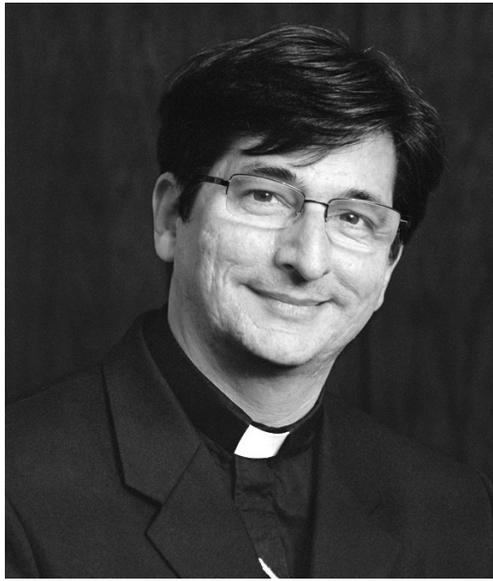
“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.” It’s a tall command. It’s especially tall when considering the Gospel of Mark from which we read each Sunday during the current liturgical year.

“Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ...” That’s how St. Mark opens his Gospel. The original Greek for “Gospel” is “euangélion” or “Good News.” Euangélion was the cry of the Roman Caesar’s messengers who were sent to carry the “good news” of the latest military conquest or victory. S.R.F. Price, in his scholarly “Rituals and Powers: The Roman Imperial Cult in Asia Minor,” notes that the fastest growing religion at the time of Christ was the “Imperial” cult – the worship of Caesar.

But gutsy St. Mark counters the cry of the Roman messengers. He begins by suggesting: “No!” That news from the Roman Caesar – that’s “Fake News” and I’ve got the real news – the “Good News” and the genuine “euangélion.” That “Good News” is Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord. Not your pagan god Caesar – but Jesus – Jesus is Lord! Christ is King!

St. Paul echoes St. Mark’s Gospel and takes this provocative message straight to the heart of the imperial capital: Rome. The noted scripture scholar, N.T. Wright, says this: “...the Caesar-cult was fast growing, highly visible, and powerful precisely in its interweaving of political and religious allegiance.” He goes on to note that “...you don’t need such a strong military presence to police an empire if the citizens are worshipping the emperor.”

Against this context and deep into the 13th chapter of his letter to the Romans, St. Paul warns this nascent Christian community not to become another political faction. At the end of the 12th chapter, in the face of imperial injustice, St. Paul demands that followers of Jesus return “good” for “evil” and show charity and even material care for those who oppose them: “...if your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty give him something to drink...” After this, the 13th chapter calls for obedience to and respect



Bishop Joseph Tyson

for civil authorities. St. Paul suggests that the anarchy of a rebel cannot replace the violence of a Caesar.

Sadly, the highest law enforcement officer of our land used this passage recently to justify the separation of young people from parents at our borders, distorting the very context and direction of St. Paul’s writing. There are no scriptures that support such actions. Indeed, the natural law underneath our Church’s moral teachings suggests just the opposite. The separation of minors from their parents violates the natural moral law. This position of public officials – including those who identify as Catholics – has been most strongly challenged by the Catholic bishops of the United States.

Regrettably, it seems that some Catholics on the political “right” so opposed to humane treatment of immigrants have been tutored by “pro-choice” Catholics on the political left on how to manipulate certain scriptures and certain teachings for political gain. As Pope Francis noted in his recent apostolic exhortation, *Rejoice and be Glad*: “We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the ‘grave’ bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future for their children.”

Such reflections are often dismissed by prominent Catholics as a matter of “prudential judgment.” They are not. They

are part of Church teaching. Certainly, the right to life of the unborn is the most heavily weighted moral issue because without the right to life there are no other rights. But that does not allow for the reckless disregard of the lives of the born, either. As I have often said: “If you want to protect the unborn you have to walk through the doors of the undocumented.” Here in Central Washington, this is where the births are often occurring.

Long before the chattering classes coined the term “fake news,” Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI while still a cardinal warned of a “dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one’s own ego and desires.” I would suggest that these words of Pope Benedict hold more import today than when he spoke them a little more than 13 years ago at the conclave that would later elect him pope.

This is why all of us need to take to heart the words and gestures in the Rite of Ordination for Deacons: “Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.” Focus – not on “Fake News” but “Good News!” Ground your interior life and your moral choices – not on politics – but on a person: Jesus Christ. Remember our “euangélion” – our Good News: Jesus is Lord! Not the Caesars of yesterday or today. But Jesus! Jesus is Lord! Christ is King!

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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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

Rice Bowl Benefits Area Programs

Twenty-nine ministries that serve the needy are the recipients of grants from the local share of the 2018 Rice Bowl collection.

The Rice Bowl collection is taken in Catholic churches nationwide each year during Lent to benefit the work of Catholic Relief Services, a non-profit relief agency commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and vulnerable. Seventy-five percent of the collection goes to support CRS' humanitarian and development programs overseas. The remaining 25 percent is returned to dioceses to support local hunger and poverty prevention programs.

The Diocese of Yakima awarded \$750 Rice Bowl Grants to the following ministries: St. Joseph St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Kennewick; FISH Food Bank, Ellensburg; St. Henry's Emergency Fund, Grand Coulee; Our Lady of Fatima Soup Kitchen, Moses Lake; Holy Rosary Sandwich Program, Moxee; Our Lady of Lourdes

Food Bank, Selah; St. Joseph St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Wenatchee; St. Paul St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Yakima; St. Vincent Center Food Bank, Union Gap; PREPARES, Diocese of Yakima; Holy Apostles PREPARES Migrant Ministry, Monitor; St. Joseph PREPARES Migrant Ministry, Malaga; Our Lady of the Assumption PREPARES Migrant Ministry, Brender Creek; St. John the Baptist/Immaculate Conception, Cle Elum and Roslyn; Senior Companion Program and Respite Adult Day Center, Catholic Charities; Holy Family St. Vincent Outreach, Yakima; Our Lady of the Assumption, Angels of Mercy, Leavenworth and Cashmere; Sacred Heart's Sandwich Sunday Program, Prosser; St. Peter Claver, Wapato; St. Michael the Archangel, Royal City; Volunteer Services and ECLIPSE, Catholic Charities; Toppenish Community Chest Food Bank, Toppenish; Ephrata Food Bank, Ephrata; Our Lady of the



Desert, Grupo de Caridad, Mattawa; Kinship Navigation Program, Catholic Charities; and St. Francis de Sales/ St. Anne, Chelan and Bridgeport. The Diocese awarded a \$1,000 Rice Bowl Grant to Catholic Campus Ministry at Central Washington University to establish a new ministry, Students Serving Students, which helps meet basic needs of students experiencing financial distress.

For guidelines and application procedures for the local Rice Bowl Grant Program, contact Leanne LaBissoniere, parish outreach coordinator for Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, (509)367-5291.

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

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 a log chapel and rectory from the late 1860s.

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

Quo Vadis Days Planned

Young Catholic men between the ages of 13 and 19 are invited to take a closer look at their vocation in life – and have fun with their peers – at the sixth annual Quo Vadis Days event.

This gathering is planned for July 30 to August 1 at Holy Family Parish in Yakima. Registration is required. The cost is \$50, and \$25 for each additional brother, with scholarships available.

For more information, contact Father Felipe Pulido at St. Joseph Church in Yakima, (509) 248-1911, or Michael Kelly at (509) 367-5297.

Camp Breakaway Offers Summer Fun

All incoming sixth- through ninth-graders are invited to grow in faith and have fun at Camp Breakaway, July 30 through August 3, at Camp Touchet in Dayton, Washington.

Sponsored by Youth Ministry at Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick, Camp Breakaway first began in July 2000. The experience offers prayer and worship, hiking, campfires, crafts and music.

The cost is \$150 if paid by June 30 or \$175 after June 30. To register or learn more, contact Pat Moore at (509) 735-8558 or pat@holyspiritkennewick.org or visit the parish website: holyspiritkennewick.org under Youth Faith Formation.

Kurt Hadley Is Ordained A Deacon

With a beaming smile and a heart full of gratitude, Seminarian Kurt Hadley was ordained to the transitional diaconate June 1 at St. Joseph Church in Kennewick.

Bishop Joseph Tyson was principal celebrant, with many other clergy from the Diocese of Yakima and Mount Angel Abbey concelebrating the ordination Mass. Hundreds attended the joyful event, which was followed by a reception in Dillon Hall.

Warning Hadley and the other seminarians in attendance of “the dictatorship of relativism,” Bishop Tyson charged them to “teach what you believe and practice what you teach.”

In the midst of the solemnity, there was one humorous moment in which Bishop Tyson asked Father Felipe Pulido, Vicar of Vocations for the Diocese of Yakima, the formal question, “Do you find him to be worthy?” Father Pulido first laughed, then quickly followed up with a positive response.

Please keep Deacon Hadley in your prayers as he prepares for his anticipated ordination to the priesthood next year.



Deacon Kurt Hadley

Sisters of Providence Mark Anniversaries

Numerous Sisters of Providence will mark special anniversaries of religious life at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 4, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 7000 35th Avenue SW, Seattle. Reverend John R. Walmsley will be the celebrant for the liturgy, which will be followed by a reception in the parish hall. Those Sisters with ties to Central Washington include:

- 75 years -



Rita Bergamini, SP
(Sister Marie Carmen)

Sister Rita Bergamini was born in Martinez, California, and was the first archivist of the former Sacred Heart Province. She was a registered nurse at Providence Hospital in Oakland, California, when she entered the Sisters of Providence novitiate at Mount St. Vincent, Seattle, in 1943.

Sister Rita served in nursing ministry in Portland, Yakima, Walla Walla and Seattle University School of Nursing. She was serving as provincial secretary when a Jesuit priest who was an archivist explained how to organize documents and historical items that were kept in a small storage area. In 1972, Sister Rita suggested the creation of permanent archives. She was the keeper of the province's history for the next 20 years and then worked with special projects in the archives.



Irene Charron, SP
(Sister Ann)

Sister Irene Charron was born in Duluth, Minnesota, and later moved to Yakima, where she attended St. Joseph Academy. After graduation, she attended Seattle University, then taught second grade before entering the religious community.

Sister Irene taught grade school in Vancouver, Fairbanks, and then back at St. Joseph. Other teaching assignments were in Sun Valley, California; Moxee, Washington; and Des Plaines, Illinois. She later transitioned to payroll and office tasks at Mount St. Vincent, Seattle, then handled the switchboard, planned retreats and worked in the library at the College of Sister Formation in Issaquah, Washington. She worked at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Yakima for 34 years and continued there as a volunteer after she retired. Sister Irene was sister representative and medical librarian at Providence Yakima Medical Center for 17 years, in addition to visiting patients at convalescent centers.



Rita Ferschweiler, SP
(Sister Mary Laureen)

This year marks Sister Rita Ferschweiler's 75th year of religious life and also her 100th birthday. She has spent a lifetime caring for others in nursing, hospital administration and pastoral care. Born in St. Louis, Oregon, she graduated from Mount Angel Academy and worked on the farm and in a cannery. She entered the religious community in 1943 at Mount St. Vincent in Seattle.

Sister Rita served primarily as a medical-surgical nurse in Seattle, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Yakima.

She served in ministry at St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, at Mount St. Vincent in Seattle, and later on the Provincial Council. She returned to Oregon, living on the Providence Portland Medical Center campus and continuing her volunteer ministry until she moved to Seattle in 2011.