



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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DECEMBER 2013
Newsletter

December: It's Also A Special Month To Honor Mary, Our Mother

By Christine Corbett Conklin

During the month of December, in addition to the much-celebrated birth of Christ, there are other days set aside by Catholics to give particular honor to Mary, the Mother of God. Though less publicized, both the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe shine forth with reverence for this very special woman in our religious tradition.

On December 8, a holy day of obligation,* we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States, observed Father Juan Flores, who serves as Director of Liturgy for the Diocese of Yakima and pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Toppenish.

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX declared as dogma – or an article of faith which the Catholic Church presents as truth for the faithful to accept – that Mary was conceived without sin so that she might one day become the Mother of God, Father Flores explained.

Pope Pius wrote, “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior

of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God...”

(Catholics often tend to confuse Mary’s Immaculate Conception – the occasion for this feast – with the fact that Christ Himself was conceived without sin, through the power of the Holy Spirit.)

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, celebrated on December 12, recalls the miraculous appearances of Our Lady to Juan Diego in the hills of what is now Mexico City.

“Mary’s message was that Juan Diego would go and see the bishop, to make a special request to build a sacred house for her in Mexico City,” Father Flores said. She also professed her love and compassion for the local people who had suffered much oppression. Skeptical at first, the bishop asked for a sign to prove that what Juan Diego said was true. In a subsequent

appearance, Mary told Juan Diego to visit a particular spot where roses were inexplicably growing out of the ground.



The feast days of the Immaculate Conception (left) and Our Lady of Guadalupe both are celebrated in December.

“Juan Diego picked the roses and put them in his cloak,” Father Flores said. “He went to see the bishop again and, as he opened his cloak,

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Why Not Begin 2014 By Saying ‘Yes’ To God?

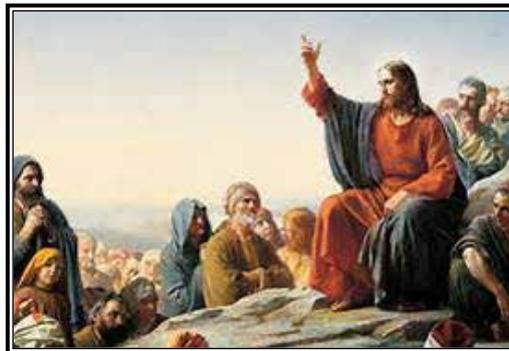
By Christine Corbett Conklin

Following the example of our Blessed Mother, who said “yes” to God, we too have the opportunity to step out in faith! Through the Magnificat program, adults and teenagers in the Diocese of Yakima can learn more about our Catholic Faith, allowing us to have a firmer foundation and perhaps even prepare for a role in lay leadership or ministry.

By attending a four-hour class once each month, “we go more into depth” about the creed and doctrine of the Church, explained Isaac Prieto, assistant director of Hispanic ministry for the diocese. Topics cover everything from sacraments to ethics and Christian morals to defending the Faith.

Classes in English and Spanish both will next be offered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, February 15 at the diocesan Pastoral Center at 5301-A Tieton Drive in Yakima. Topics will include “Christology” and “Catechesis.”

All upcoming classes in English are scheduled for the Pastoral Center, with a choice of attending classes in Spanish here, and/or at St. Pius X



As the crowds learned from Jesus’ teaching, we, too, can learn from teaching about our Faith.

Church in Quincy and St. Joseph Church in Kennewick, Prieto explained. The same class in Spanish is repeated on various Saturdays of the month, so that, if someone misses a class, it’s possible to attend it at a later time.

Teachers for the English program include Bishop Tyson; Fathers Miguel González and Osmar Aguirre; Jeff Thompson and Stephanie Bafus. For the Spanish program, teachers include Fathers

Jaime Chacón, Tomás Vidal, Gustavo Gómez, José Herrera and Mauricio Muñoz; Deacon Carlos Luna; and Sisters Olga Cano, Veronica Alvarez and María de Lourdes Colin.

The full Magnificat program takes three years to complete, with a certificate signed by the Bishop awarded to anyone who attends all of the classes. However, everyone is welcome to stop in when time permits and attend a class, even if it’s not possible to come to ALL of the classes, Prieto said. Although both English and Spanish programs actually began in October, those interested may begin coming at any time. There is no need to pre-register.

Classes are free, with an offering requested from attendees who are able to contribute. Refreshments will be provided.

For a full class schedule or other details, call Isaac Prieto at (509) 965-7117, extension 1118, email isaac.prieto@yakimadiocese.org, or visit www.dioceseofyakima.org and click on “Ministries,” then “Magnificat.”

Why not begin 2014 by saying, “yes” to God?

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

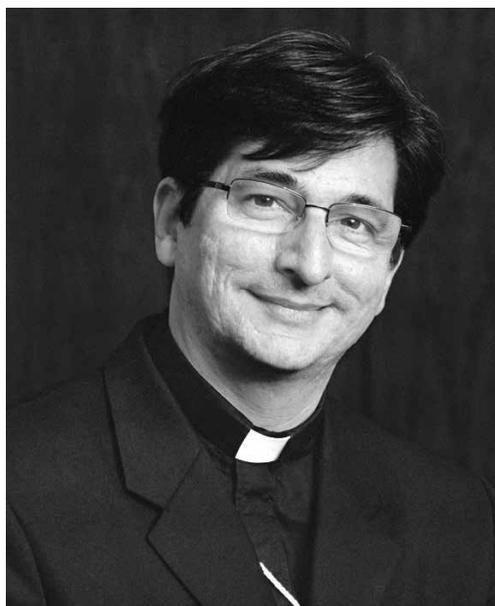
Dear Friends,

I want to begin by thanking you for your generous response to the annual Christmas collection for Catholic Charities, and our new initiative to use some of the funds to support women experiencing crisis pregnancies.

Last month's edition of the Central Washington Catholic provided many details of this unprecedented collaboration. We are able this year to designate \$70,000 from the collection for the effort. The Knights of Columbus Council in Richland has already dedicated \$31,000 as a kind of challenge grant to other Knights from across the state. They're in with me on this planning phase as we begin to sketch out the basic services we'll be providing as we walk the journey with women and uplift the gift of the unborn in their lives.

In January you'll see we have a second new initiative -- the Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC). This national collection has been around for many years and in the past the Diocese of Yakima has simply sent in a donation from the Annual Catholic Appeal. This year we're putting the collection out in front of you to give everyone a chance to consider supporting the communications ministry of the Church.

What's unique about this collection is that half of what is raised actually stays here in the Diocese of Yakima. I am



Bishop Joseph Tyson

trying to build some reserve funds as we roll out Catholic radio in both Spanish and English across the Diocese of Yakima. Thanks to dedicated volunteers we have two stations on the air: 88.1 KYTR in Yakima and 88.7 KDMB in Moses Lake. Both are affiliates of EWTN Radio. I'm grateful to Sacred Heart Radio in Seattle that is now helping manage KYTR and has also provided some technical information to KDMB. During Christmas both stations carried one-minute messages from me as well. Part of the CCC collection will help us expand the number

of stations as we apply for frequencies in other areas here in Central Washington.

You'll also note in this issue that we are talking about the overall new calendar of collections. The point I made to our priests is quite simple: We need to preach the mission of the Church. These collections are ultimately not about money. They are about the mission, and if we don't take up a national collection then when do our people learn about the global ministry of the Catholic Church? As bishop I want to give every parishioner the opportunity to financially support the vast spectrum of Church ministry. Ultimately you will decide how and in what ways you will support the global mission of the Church.

This is why I am so grateful to all of you. I am grateful for the way you uplift the gift of life -- especially the life of the unborn -- through our new state-wide pregnancy initiative. I am grateful for your prayerful consideration of spreading the Church message through radio broadcasting as well as other media. I am grateful for your presence in our global community of 1.2 billion believers around the world! May we embrace our ministry as missionaries to those around us -- both far and near!

With every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

It's Also A Special Month To Honor Mary, Our Mother *Continued from page 1*

the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was seen by the bishop and other people." The image was seen on December 12, the day we now celebrate her feast, often as the culmination of a nine-day novena and beginning with early morning song, Mass and a breakfast.

Not all Catholics today take advantage of these two feast days -- plus the many other opportunities throughout the year -- to honor the Mother of God for the role she has played, and continues to play, in human history, Father Flores observed.

In his parish in Toppenish, for example, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception "is just a regular day," he said. "A few extra people come, but it's not a big crowd." For the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, "The regular people come plus a great number of other people we don't see through the year," he added.

Remember to keep prayers to Mary as a daily part of your life, Father Flores suggests. January 1, the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, a holy day,* could be an ideal time to begin! "Every day of the year, we have the church open. You're welcome to come," he said. "And you can pray to Mary at any time -- at home, at work, at school or wherever you are. The Rosary is a beautiful way to do this. There are also other prayers for supplication, meditation, or just to honor her. Mary is our advocate, interceding for us, bringing our prayers to God. She is our mother, too, always there for us."

**Normally all Catholics who have attained the age of reason are required to attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation, as they are required to do on Sundays as well, unless impeded by illness or another sufficient reason (when in doubt, check with your pastor). This includes: January 1, ** the Feast of Mary the Mother of God; 40 days after Easter, Ascension Thursday (always transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter in our diocese); August 15, ** the Assumption of Mary into Heaven; November 1, ** All Saints' Day; December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception; and December 25, Christmas. When the Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on Sunday, it is transferred to Monday (because of the importance of the Sundays in Advent), and the obligation to attend Mass is suspended.*

***When these three Feasts fall on Saturday or Monday, the obligation to attend Mass also is suspended. However, each and every opportunity to attend Mass is a blessing, bringing with it additional graces! So, Mass attendance is encouraged whenever possible.*

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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Nation Special Collection Calendar Changes

For the first time in many years, parishioners in the Diocese of Yakima in January will be able to donate directly to the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC), with 50 percent of the proceeds remaining within the diocese for local use to help spread the Gospel.

In the past, a yearly contribution to the CCC has been made from the Annual Catholic Appeal. That support has been very helpful, said Bishop Joseph Tyson. But the lack of an annual parish-centered campaign has not given parishioners the opportunity to better understand how their donations have helped in spreading the Gospel here and throughout our nation and the world.

The collection will be taken up in parishes the weekend of January 25-26, with donation envelopes, and a letter from the Bishop encouraging support, available in the pews. Examples of how the local share of the collection will be used include the expansion of Catholic radio throughout the diocese, and further support of the Central Washington Catholic newsletter.

"The CCC funds grants that support local and international communications projects that strengthen Catholic faith, worship, and witness," said Bishop Tyson.

In Africa, for example, the collection funded the Kenya Election Assistance Project, an initiative of the Kenya Conference of Catholic

Through the Internet, print, television, and radio.



Support the Catholic Communication Campaign

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Bishops (KCCB), which used text messaging and other new tools to prevent violence during the 2013 elections. The initiative successfully sent messages through radio, television, and online media, touching the lives of the Kenyan people and encouraging them to address their differences by more peaceful means.

Six other national special collections have historically been provided donations from the ACA in lieu of direct appeals, noted Bishop Tyson. That practice will continue. However, to help educate parishioners about the needs of Catholics throughout the world, optional special collections will be taken up in February and August, featuring two appeals a year, on a rotating three-year cycle.

In February 2014, for example, a collection will be taken up for the Black and Indian Missions. In following Februarys, the rotation will include collections for the Church in Latin America and for Catholic Relief Services.

In August 2014, a collection will be taken up for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. In following Augusts, the rotation will include collections for the Solidarity Fund in Africa, and the Archdiocese for Military Services. The World Mission collection, currently held in August, will move to October, close to the actual date for World Mission Sunday.

The February and August collections will be at the discretion of the pastor, but parishes will still be provided a letter from the Bishop about it, with ways to contribute should the collection not be taken up in a particular parish. In years that a collection is not in the rotation, a donation will be given.

The only appeal that will not have a

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Annual Walk For Life Welcomes You —

Everyone is invited to join in “A Triumphant Procession” -- the annual Walk for Life scheduled for Saturday, January 18, in Yakima.

Marking the 41st anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States, the event, which honors life from conception through natural death, will begin with a gathering at 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church (now known as Grace of Christ Presbyterian Church) at the corner of Yakima Avenue and South Eighth Avenue.

The walk will proceed down Yakima Avenue to Millennium Plaza where brief comments will be made and a host of colorful balloons will be released in memory of the unborn babies lost to abortion. Refreshments will follow, and bus transportation will be available back to First Presbyterian Church.

Father Ronald Patnode Dies

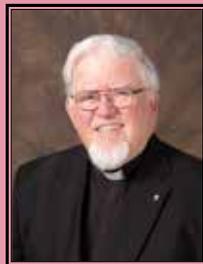
Father Ronald Patnode, who served the Diocese of Yakima for more than 50 years, died November 24 from cancer.

Following a funeral Mass December 2 at Holy Family Church, he was interred at Calvary Cemetery, both in Yakima.

Born and raised in the Yakima Valley, he was ordained a priest in 1961 and went on to serve the diocese in many capacities. He taught at Marquette High School, Yakima; St. Joseph Junior High in Wenatchee; and Carroll High School in Yakima, where he also was vice principal and principal. He later became Superintendent of Catholic Schools in Central Washington.

Following Spanish studies in Mexico, Father Patnode became diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministries. In this and other capacities, he worked tirelessly for greater understanding and outreach to the Hispanic culture. In more recent years, he served as Diocesan Director of Continuing Education of Clergy. Parish assignments included St. Peter Claver, Wapato; St. Mary, White Swan; Immaculate Conception, Mabton; St. Joseph, Wenatchee; Royal City and Mattawa; St. Joseph, Kennewick; St. Aloysius, Toppenish; Resurrection, Zillah; St. John the Baptist, Cle Elum; Immaculate Conception, Roslyn; St. Joseph, Sunnyside; Our Lady of Lourdes, Selah; and Holy Family, Yakima.

May his soul and all of the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



Father Patnode

Father Thomas Royce Dies

Father Thomas Royce, S.J., a priest of the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus who served for many years in the Diocese of Yakima, died December 6 in Spokane after a long battle with cancer. He was 87.

The funeral Mass was held December 13 at St. Aloysius Church with burial at Mount St. Michael Cemetery, both in Spokane.

Father Royce taught at Marquette High School in Yakima as a Jesuit Scholastic from 1950 to 1953 and was a parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Yakima from 1995 to 2005.

May he rest in peace.



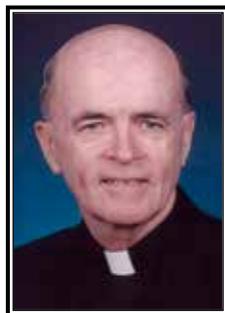
Father Thomas Royce, S.J.

What's A Vicar? Who's A Vicar? Part 3

(In the past two months, we have talked about “vicars” of the Diocese of Yakima. Our 10 vicars are priests who serve as deputies or representatives, acting on behalf of the Bishop in overseeing aspects of diocesan life. Here is a look at what three of our vicars do.)

Every day, priests have many responsibilities, looking out for the well-being of others. Yet, where can a priest turn when HE needs someone with whom to speak about his concerns and challenges? And who can help to plan the best assignments for the priests of our diocese?

With these thoughts in mind, numerous years ago Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J.



Father Reilly

appointed two Vicars for Priests for the Diocese of Yakima. **Father Lawrence Reilly**, a senior priest who assists at St. Andrew's Parish in Ellensburg, and **Monsignor Mario A. Salazar**, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Quincy, continue to fill these roles for Bishop Joseph Tyson.

“The main, visible role (of a vicar for priests) is being a member of the personnel board,” observed Father Reilly, who has been a priest for almost 50 years. “The board advises the Bishop on assignments for the clergy.”

However, there's also a more personal dimension to this role of vicar, he said.

“If a priest wants to talk to someone in strict confidentiality, we're there,” he added. Depending upon the wishes of the individual priest, a vicar for priests then will keep this information to himself or share it

with the Bishop without compromising the confidentiality of the individual, Father Reilly explained.

“The most rewarding experience (as a vicar) has been to see how kind the bishops have been in caring for the priests,” he emphasized.

Monsignor Mario A. Salazar says that, between approaching his 81st birthday and being the sole priest for St. Pius X, in its more remote location, he has not had many demands upon his time in his position as a vicar for priests. Earlier this year, Monsignor Salazar celebrated his 52nd anniversary in the priesthood.

However, Monsignor Salazar remains open to helping his fellow priests in any way he can. “I'm ready to meet when the occasion comes,” he said.

Bishop Joseph Tyson noted that Monsignor Salazar's modesty is one of many traits that makes him — along with Father Reilly — good role models for priests. Named a monsignor years ago by Bishop Sevilla, Monsignor Salazar declined to make the honor public until Bishop Tyson asked him to do so, in recognition of his long and distinguished service as a priest. “Their knowledge and pastoral experience — more than 100 years combined — make their advice invaluable,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Vicar for Vocations, **Father Felipe Pulido** — who also serves as pastor of St. Joseph Church in Yakima — finds that he has kept very busy working with the 13 seminarians of the diocese. Father Pulido was named to the post of vicar one year ago.



Father Pulido

“My responsibility is to check on the seminarians, visit them and make sure they are getting ready to become priests,” he explained. Other young men who are discerning the priesthood also may call him or the Diocesan Director of Discernment, Father Cesar Vega.

There are five areas in which Father Pulido helps to track the progress of seminarians, he explained. They include: academics; spiritual life; pastoral formation (how they become involved in a parish through helping with RCIA, or assisting at a shelter or nursing home, for example); human formation (including nutrition and exercise); and community life (how they participate in a positive way with other seminarians).

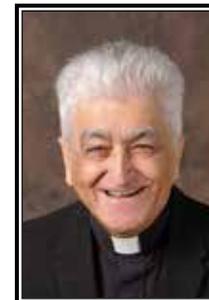
“It's a challenge because I'm a full-time pastor and I'm away from the parish a lot to do this,” he observed. However, Father said that he very much enjoys working with the seminarians.

A priest since 2002, Father Pulido still has vivid memories of the challenges of the seminary. This gives him great empathy in his responsibilities as a vicar.

“I always worried about my exams and also about meeting with my formation director,” he recalled. “These two things I remember most!”

Thank you to all three of these vicars for the contributions they make to the Diocese of Yakima!

(Next month's conclusion: Learn how Father Thomas Champoux, Vicar for Charity; Father Osmar Aguirre, Vicar for Parish Life; Father Jaime Chacón, Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and Father Thomas Kuykendall, Vicar for Schools, serve our diocese.)



Msgr. Salazar

Nation Special Collection Calendar Changes

Continued from page 3

collection in the parishes at least once every three years will be for the Catholic University of America. An annual donation to the school, which helps to educate seminarians, will continue to be given.

“My hope is that these changes will help all of us to better understand the needs not just of the Church in our diocese, but the needs of the Church throughout the world, in communion with our Holy Father Pope Francis,” Bishop Tyson said.