



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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NOVEMBER 2013
Newsletter

Christmas Collection to Support Pregnancy Initiative

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, those who attend Mass will have the opportunity to assist with a new initiative which is designed to offer support to women in crisis pregnancies and young children throughout Washington state.

This year's annual Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities will help to support the Pregnancy Initiative of the Washington State Catholic Conference, said Steve Wilmes, director of development for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima.

"We are hoping to start the Initiative in 2014," explained Darlene Darnell, vice president of Catholic Charities. "We would be looking at ways to have services and volunteers in parishes to serve pregnant women and children up to the age of five."

Yakima Bishop Joseph Tyson, who has spearheaded the state effort, noted in a letter that will be distributed at Christmas that the Blessed Virgin Mary's pregnancy was only the beginning of a journey that included the help of the communities in which the Holy Family lived.

"Their journey does not end at a stable in Bethlehem. Together, Joseph and Mary, along with a caring and life-sustaining community, must now make certain that their

infant Jesus will have the love and resources to thrive," the Bishop wrote.



The Rest on the Flight into Egypt, Giovanni Odazzi (d. 1731)

The immediate goal for the statewide effort is to hire a full-time person or a couple of

part-time people equaling one FTE (full-time equivalent), Darnell said.

"Then, we'll probably be doing a year-long planning and engaging process," she said. "I would hope that, in 2015, we would have a plan in place that we're beginning to implement."

The person or persons hired would "connect the dots, pulling together information on existing programs," Wilmes said. The Pregnancy Initiative would encompass services throughout the Archdiocese of Seattle, Diocese of Yakima and Diocese of Spokane. Groups such as the Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul, which already have useful programs in place, would be included in the resource pool.

Services to which women, families and young children might be referred could include everything from mentoring to counseling, parenting classes, locating housing, child care and early-learning opportunities, Darnell said.

"We value life and assisting women in a crisis pregnancy and in the process of parenting," she said. "We want to support women in their journey of pregnancy and parenting so they're connected with resources and don't feel alone."

Ways To Keep Christ in Christmas Season Endure Through Time

By Christine Corbett Conklin

(Father Seamus Kerr is in residence at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Ephrata.)

Father Seamus Kerr has many treasured memories of Christmas season in Belfast, Ireland, where he was born and lived until he entered the seminary. It was a time and place in which the religious significance of Christmas was given priority, unlike our current era when commercialism so often takes center stage, he observed.

"I think that people have forgotten what Christmas really is – the birth of the Messiah who came to redeem and save us, to open the Kingdom of Heaven for us," Father Kerr said. "(Today) we're distracted by all of the materialism that is thrown against us at Christmas."

Born in 1929, and growing up in Belfast with four brothers and sisters, Father remembers how all of the rooms of his home would be decorated during Advent "with buntings and bells." However, the focal point of the house was the crib in the center of the

living room, watched over by figures of Mary and Joseph, with the Christ Child placed in the crib on Christmas Day, and the wise men arriving to join the scene on Epiphany.

"We always participated when the parish had little liturgical programs, preparing the children for Christmas," he further recalled. "Advent was a time of preparation, so Christmas had great meaning for us." Every church in town would have a Christmas program and perhaps a concert. Even the local businesses got into the act, with a living Nativity scene downtown and some stores presenting "pantomimes" or enactments of religious scenes.

"They were wonderful days," he recalled. "When I was growing up, it was very peaceful



Father Seamus Kerr reflected on Christmas. - Photo by Christine Conklin

in the North of Ireland.

"I was taught by the Irish Christian Brothers," Father Kerr continued. "They advised us to read Scriptures about the preparations the prophet Isaiah made for the

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A Message from Bishop Tyson...

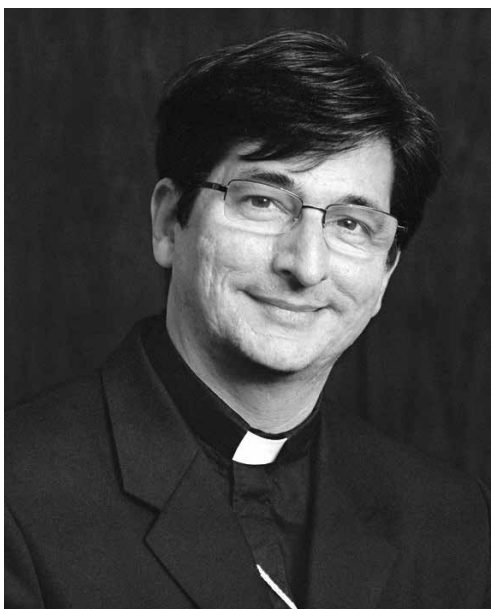
Dear Friends,

Advent Blessings! This issue of the Central Washington Catholic covers a number of key themes related directly to our preparation to hear the Christmas Gospels. One of our lead articles explains the annual Christmas collection taken up across the Yakima Diocese for Catholic Charities.

This collection supports our new Pregnancy Initiative, thus uplifting the Gospel of Life. In advance I thank you for digging deep and thus providing an alternative for women, their unborn children as well as the fathers and extended family members with whom our Catholic Charities agencies often work.

Related to the topic of family support, this issue also profiles one of the many servants who work at Catholic Family & Child Service – Robin Cronin – our new clinical supervisor. It's not enough for us to oppose abortion. We must find ever-new ways to walk the Gospel of Life with those guests and clients who come to our doors seeking material, spiritual and psychological support. Robin provides leadership to assure the best possible services are provided to those most vulnerable and in need. Our counseling and family services assist families in walking the journey of love by providing ongoing support.

Know too, that between CFCS, Catholic Charities Housing Services, and our St. Vincent Centers, over 200,000 acts of service are done each year through Catholic Charities. It's an impressive outreach that continues to grow thanks to our many state and local partnerships, our many prayers and our many benefactors including you!



Bishop Joseph Tyson

Of course, one of the ways we pass on this Gospel of Life is through support of our youth. I had the opportunity to celebrate Mass at our annual Diocese of Yakima Youth Convention at St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee. It's important to remember that the success of this annual event is due in large part to some great youth ministers who come together to plan and implement it.

Even more, it's your contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal that support these volunteer and professional youth ministers in providing this annual convention.

Support for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel and administering of the sacraments requires day-to-day, pencil-to-

paper administrative work. This is precisely what you'll learn about Monsignor Siler – my Episcopal Vicar for Administration – who embodies the Benedictine motto of “Ora et Labora” – “Work and Prayer.”

Monsignor Jack Ecker has served both Bishop Sevilla and me as Vicar General of the Diocese. Besides providing a beautiful example of liturgy at St. Paul Cathedral, he's spearheading the clergy consultation on our draft liturgy policies, and surveying parish music to see which publishers are being utilized in which parishes. He's busy planning the 100th anniversary of the parish next March 19 as well, which Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., one of our former Yakima bishops, will be attending.

Father Michael Ibach, besides the leadership he provides as Judicial Vicar overseeing the Office of Canonical Concerns, is generous in celebrating Mass at Holy Family Parish in Yakima, Catholic Campus Ministry in Ellensburg, and in many other parishes as well.

And Father Seamus Kerr, one of our senior priests with ministry in Ephrata, continues to serve through his reflections on “Keeping Christ in Christmas.” Taken together, I hope this issue helps you find ways to keep Christ – not only at the center of Christmas – but at the center of your lives. May you find inspiration in these stories of faith as you live out your own faith in your local parish, too!

With every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Ways To Keep Christ in Christmas Season Endure Through Time *Continued from page 1*

coming of Christ. Christmas Day was always a very special day in our lives to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion.”

Today, there is still much which families and individuals can do to keep Christ in the Christmas season, Father Kerr suggests.

“I always recommend making a Jesse Tree,” he said. “Parents can make the symbols of the genealogy of Jesus. There was a great preparation for Our Lord coming into the world, you see. Children can cut out and decorate the symbols.” (*See instructions for making a Jesse Tree at www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities*)

Father Kerr also believes that every Catholic home should have an Advent Wreath.

“It's very simple to make,” he said. “You light the candles every night before dinner and say a prayer. The ‘Christ candle’ is lit on Christmas Day.” (*Tips on making an Advent Wreath may also be found at the Catholic Culture website mentioned above. Just enter “Making an Advent Wreath” in the search bar on the upper right of the screen.*)

“When I was growing up, we were encouraged to go to daily Mass during Advent and follow the Scripture readings,” he added. “Try to make it as often as possible. If you can't get to daily Mass, read the Scriptures, the prophet Isaiah.” (*Try Chapter 55, for example, about God's invitation to those who thirst.*)

And don't forget the Rosary!

“You have the Annunciation in that,” he observes.

“Our world needs to know the real meaning of Christmas,” Father Kerr concluded. “We should commit a little prime time of our days during Advent and give it to God – not just the last couple of minutes of the season.”

Father Kerr admits that there was one nonreligious aspect of Christmas, which, after all of the prayer and devotion of the season, did make a big hit.

“Christmas Day was the only day we would have a turkey,” he recalled. “That was a real treat!”

For more ideas of how you can help keep Christ in Christmas, check your parish bulletin and the Diocesan website at yakimadiocese.org for schedules of Our Lady of Guadalupe observances, Advent Penance services, Posadas and other special devotions.

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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CFCS Names Mental Health Director

Catholic Family & Child Service (CFCS), an agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima, has named Robin Cronin as its new Division Director for Mental Health. Cronin most recently served as Executive Director for Macomb Family Services in Clinton Township, Michigan.

In her new role, Cronin will oversee some 75 staff members providing mental health services in Wenatchee, Yakima and the Tri-Cities. In addition, she is responsible for developing and implementing long-range strategies for CFCS's mental health programs and services.

Cronin has over 33 years of mental health leadership experience. She holds a B.A. in English and Spanish from Kalamazoo College and a Master's of Social Work degree from Wayne State University.

"We are very pleased to have Robin join our team," said Darlene Darnell, director of Catholic Family & Child Service. "As a perfect fit, she has a pronounced passion for helping others and is a proven leader in her field."

"I'm very excited and impressed with the agency (CFCS). They're very forward-thinking," Cronin observed. "It's a big challenge" she's taken on, she added.

Among her most immediate goals are expanding and integrating mental health services, further implementing "Best Practices" and "evidence-based practices" that prove effective, finding enough credentialed personnel to serve autism clients – AND wading through a new system of health care acronyms (or initials), she said.



Robin Cronin

Deacon Bill Osborn Dies

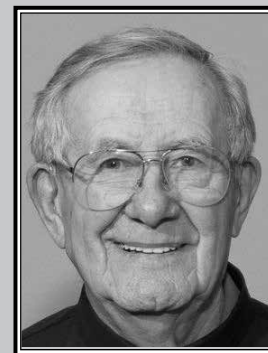
The Rev. Mr. William Joseph Osborn, a permanent deacon of the Diocese with ministry at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wenatchee, died November 11 of pancreatic cancer. He was 89. The funeral Mass was scheduled for St. Joseph's on November 22. Most Rev. William S. Skylstad, Bishop Emeritus of Spokane, was to preside.

Deacon Bill was born in Spokane. In his early years, in addition to college studies, he served in the United States Navy during World War II and played professional baseball for five years, with minor league teams. He returned to North Central Washington, where he married Marylyle Cunningham in 1952, at St. Joseph's in Wenatchee. They settled on a wheat farm in Hartline, where they raised four children.

Deacon Bill entered the permanent deacon program in the Diocese of Spokane in 1977, while the Yakima Diocese was in the process of developing its own formation program. He was ordained to the diaconate at St. Henry Church in Grand Coulee in 1980 by Bishop Skylstad, who was then Bishop of Yakima. He and Marylyle moved to Cashmere later that year, and Deacon Bill served the parishes in Cashmere and Leavenworth.

The Osborns moved to Wenatchee in 2004. Deacon Bill continued to serve at the parish in Wenatchee until this past summer, when he was diagnosed with cancer. Besides assisting and leading parish liturgies, his most recent ministry included visiting the sick, those in jail and families struggling with their faith, and personal contact with young people.

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



Deacon Bill Osborn

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Communal Burial Honors Life

The remains of 76 miscarried infants were laid to rest in a communal gravesite at Calvary Cemetery in Yakima, November 5.

Father Darell Mitchell, cemetery director, presided over the ceremony which was attended by family members, supportive health care employees and friends.

With a small angel statue overlooking the gravesite, those present placed flowers at the grave in a show of respect for the sanctity of human life beginning with conception.

Please join in praying for the souls of these and all of our departed loved ones.

Engaged Encounters Scheduled

Are you – or a member of your family – thinking about getting married? Why not get off to the best possible start through an Engaged Encounter?

Engaged Encounters offer couples a chance to hear useful advice, and to talk and pray together about a variety of important issues in marriage. Upcoming weekend sessions are scheduled for April 11-13 and June 27-29, both at the Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center in Ellensburg.

For more details, call Catholic Engaged Encounter of Central Washington at (509) 528-4653 or email info@eecentralwa.org.

Annual Catholic Appeal Needs You

More numbers are in for the successful 2013 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) in the Diocese of Yakima – and envelopes are still available for the new and vital 2014 Appeal. The ACA provides resources for many programs and services throughout the Diocese overseen by Bishop Joseph Tyson.

For the collection which concluded this fall, \$1.938 million was pledged by 6,988 individuals and families throughout the Diocese, compared to pledges totaling \$1.738 million by 6,336 individuals and families in 2012, said Alma Benitez, director of Stewardship & Development. To date, 70 percent of parishes have met or exceeded their goals for 2013, with another five parishes coming in at 90 to 99 percent of their goal.

A total of \$1.696 million was actually received this year, Benitez explained. Then, when parish rebates were paid to those parishes exceeding their goals, the Diocesan Pastoral Center was paid \$1.406 million, almost meeting its goal of \$1.464 million for the year. This is up from the 2012 actual income to the Diocese of \$1.353 million, resulting in less shortfall than last year.

There's still time to make your pledge for the 2014 campaign. Pick up a pledge envelope in your church or parish office, go online to www.yakimadiocese.org or call (509) 965-7117 and ask for Alma or Dana.

What's A Vicar? Who's A Vicar? Part 2

(Last month, we began an introduction to the 10 vicars of the Diocese of Yakima. As you may recall, a "vicar" is a deputy or representative. In a diocese, a vicar generally oversees a particular aspect of diocesan life for the bishop. Here is a look at what three of our vicars do.)

As **Vicar General** for the Diocese of Yakima, **Monsignor John Ecker** explains that he is "second in command" in the Diocese. When Bishop Joseph Tyson is out of town, "I'm kind of in charge of the Diocese," he said.

As Vicar "General," his duties include anything from signing contracts in the name of the Diocese, to standing in for the Bishop when an important decision is to be made, to advising the Bishop on various matters. Whatever the task, "It's always in communication and cooperation with (the Bishop)," Monsignor stressed.

Although he admits that his title as vicar can be "incomprehensible" to people at times, the work itself allows him to "be in a more close relationship with the Diocese, to keep up on issues," he said.

Reflecting on this role he's held since 2005, in addition to serving as Pastor of St. Paul Cathedral for many years, Monsignor commented, "It's a privilege. It reflects the trust of the Bishop."

Monsignor Robert Siler is another individual with many responsibilities. In addition to serving as **Episcopal Vicar for Administration** for the past year, he has served as Chief of Staff and Chancellor of the Diocese for a longer time.

In his role as vicar, he describes himself as "chief assistant to the Bishop." (The word "Episcopal" refers back to the Bishop.) Monsignor Siler manages the day-to-day operations of the Diocesan Pastoral Care Center and its staff of about 15 people.

"That means everything from working on legal issues with attorneys to working cooperatively with the finance department on budgets to overseeing the Safe Environment Program," he said. He also serves as a spokesman for the Diocese.

Each day is new and interesting, Monsignor Siler observed. One of his favorite parts of the job is to meet people from throughout the Diocese as he travels to say Mass on weekends in communities from White Salmon to Ellensburg to Chelan.

For **Father Michael Ibach**, the **Judicial Vicar** for the Diocese, life is also very full and challenging.

Father Ibach oversees the Office of Canonical Concerns which deals with "issues concerning Canon Law," he explained. This includes everything from marriage annulments to questions on marriages between people of different faiths, to questions about who can be a godparent or whether it's possible to get a dispensation when someone can't attend Mass on Sunday.

"Every day, there's something going on that affects the daily lives of people," he said. "I try to help the Bishop and people of the Diocese to use the law of the Church in a way that keeps order and in which we can be of help to each other."

In his role as vicar, Father Ibach also helps to guide the Bishop in some of his decisions, in respect to Church law, and writes letters of appointment for such positions as chaplain for the Young Ladies Institute or the Knights of Columbus.

"Our office is here to help people throughout the Diocese," he explained. "People can call us with a question or concern at (509) 965-7123."

(Next month: Learn how **Father Lawrence Reilly** and **Monsignor Mario Salazar** – the **Diocesan Vicars for Priests** – and **Father Felipe Pulido**, **Vicar for Vocations**, serve our Diocese.)

Youth Convention: A Chance To 'Build Faith'

About 160 high school students from throughout the Diocese of Yakima gathered in Wenatchee, November 1-3, for a spirited Diocesan Youth Convention.

"Fearless" was the theme of this event held at St. Joseph Church, "showing youth how to be fearless and stand up for our Faith," said Mary Seidler, an event organizer and high school youth minister/Confirmation coordinator for Christ the King Church in Richland.

"It was energetic and uplifting," Seidler observed. "You could really tell the Holy Spirit was present."



The convention drew an enthusiastic crowd.

Keynote speaker Erik Mertens, a Kennewick native who works for Gonzaga University and St. Aloysius Church in Spokane in alumni ministry/young adult ministry, challenged conference attendees to live out their faith in a secular world.

"I think they were able to hear the message," observed Shawn Exner, director of LifeTeen/youth ministry at St. Paul Cathedral.

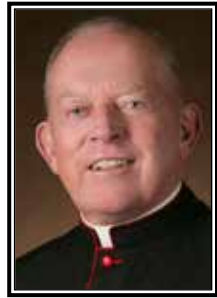
In addition, the conference offered teens the chance to meet young Catholics from other parishes in the Diocese, Exner and Seidler said.

Mass was offered by Bishop Joseph Tyson on All Saints Day and Father John Shaw on Sunday, November 3.

"Awaken," a praise and worship band from Portland performed for attendees. A team from REACH youth ministry organized social time. Knights of Columbus from Wenatchee and East Wenatchee provided meals. Attendees spent nights at Holy Apostles Church in East Wenatchee.

For the young people who came from throughout the state, "it was a chance for growing together to build their faith," Seidler said.

Upcoming youth ministry events include a Diocesan Confirmation retreat, February 28-March 2, 2014, and the next Diocesan Youth Convention, November 7-9, 2014. Contact mary@ckparish.org.



Msgr. Ecker



Msgr. Siler



Fr. Ibach