



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Mass for Life Is Scheduled

The dignity of human life from conception through natural death will be celebrated at the annual Mass for Life, which will be offered in both English and Spanish on Sunday, January 9, at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima.

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson, Bishop of Yakima, will celebrate the English Mass at 11 a.m. and the Spanish Mass at 1 p.m.

The Mass marks the 49th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion, which was decided on January 22, 1973, and is under challenge in a case before the United States Supreme Court. Informal receptions will follow both Masses.

Walk for Life Set for Yakima

The Central Washington Walk for Life will return to Yakima on Saturday, January 22.

This annual event, which was cancelled due to COVID in 2021, will begin at 1 p.m., with participants meeting in the Grace of Christ Church parking lot, at Seventh and Chestnut avenues. There will not be a program inside of the church, prior to the walk.

Sponsored by Image Point Mobile Medical Services, the event also will include a diaper drive to benefit local organizations including PREPARES. Donations of diapers will be collected in the church parking lot prior to the walk.

Students for Life Welcome Youth

Young people between the ages of 13 and college age are invited to join Students for Life, encouraging respect for life from conception through natural death.

Currently, Students are active in Yakima, Tri-Cities, Wenatchee, Ellensburg and the Lower Yakima Valley. There is no cost to join. It's an opportunity to meet other young people with strong Christian values and to reach out into our communities, helping to make a difference.

For more information on Students for Life in your town, or to start a new group, contact Christine at 509-985-6248.

Synod 2021-23: Pope Francis Wants To Hear From You!

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Have you always wanted to be part of a synod? Do you even know what a “synod” is? Well, now is your chance to express your thoughts on how we, as Catholics, are “walking together

with the Holy Spirit in pursuit of Christ’s love,” said Doug Rich, director of schools and parish services for the Diocese of Yakima.

Pope Francis has sent out a worldwide invitation to hear

from Catholic parishioners, Rich explained. Typically, a “synod,” which in Greek means “to walk together,” or in Spanish, “elbow to elbow,” is a gathering which would occur at the Vatican “to discuss an idea,” he observed. However, in this 2021-2023 synod, the process is reversed, with input coming from individual parishes and channeling up to the Vatican.

In a Christmas letter to parishioners, Bishop Joseph Tyson clarified that, “This past October, our Holy Father Pope Francis asked all the Faithful to enter into a dialogue and discussion of how we can walk in closer Communion with each other and the Holy Spirit, as our Catholic Church grows into the future.”

There are three main areas of discussion in the current synod, Rich added. The first, as Bishop Tyson referenced, has to do with

Communion. “How do we perceive ourselves in Communion with the Holy Spirit?” The second issue deals with **Participation.** “How can we learn each other’s stories?” Rich

posed. The third and final topic focuses on **Mission.** “How does that shape or improve our missionary zeal, outreach to our communities and to each other?” Rich questioned.

Following the initial announcement of the synod process, we will

begin to hear, in January and February 2022, about surveys, meetings, town halls and prayers in which we can participate, Rich said. There will be both in-person and online opportunities to join in.

“There will be a lot of discussion at the parish level,” he noted.

By June, dioceses across the United States will forward their input to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Then, in August, the USCCB is scheduled to present its findings to the Vatican. An overall report from the Vatican is expected by some time in 2023.

Stay tuned for more details about how YOU can express your ideas to Pope Francis! The messages and stories received during our listening sessions will be reported back to the Diocese, particularly at our Diocesan Mission Congress October 15, 2022.



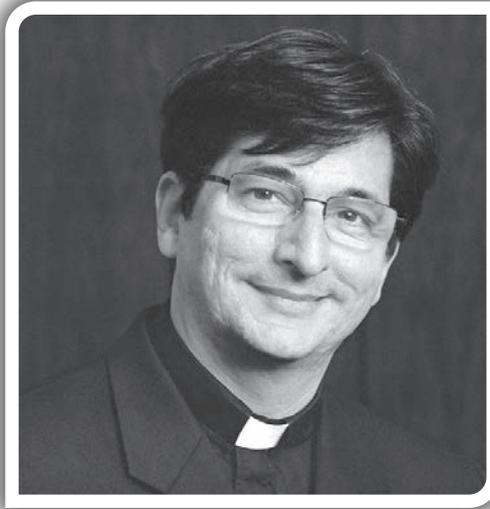
A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

As you can read in this issue of our *Central Washington Catholic*, the annual Mass for Life lands on the Feast of the Lord's Baptism, January 9. So I hope you will join me at St. Paul Cathedral for this special Mass in English at 11 a.m. and in Spanish at 1 p.m. The feast commemorates Jesus Christ being baptized by His cousin, Saint John the Baptist, in the Jordan River. Why would Jesus need to be baptized? From the earliest centuries, the earliest saints of the church suggested that while we are consecrated in the waters of baptism, that in this unique event, Jesus Christ, in His baptism, consecrates the waters in which we, too, are baptized.

Baptism initiates us into our spiritual family of faith. It brings to bear a God-given dignity built into each and every human life. For us who witness this beautiful sacrament, we see that there is more to life than what meets the eye. Built into our human growth is a spiritual destination: eternal life with God. Having our annual Mass for Life on this particular Feast of the Baptism of the Lord underscores the inherent human dignity that starts from the first moment of conception and endures to the final moment of natural death. Our Church teaching stresses an organic wholeness where all of our teachings about life and justice find their basis in the inherent dignity of the human person. Thus, abortion and euthanasia bookend our Church's teachings about life because, without the right to life, there are no other rights. Our care of the unborn and the dying ought to set a tone of empathy and support for the migrants, refugees, undocumented, those in poverty, those lacking shelter, basic education and full employment. Our reverence for life ought to engender sympathy and support for those fleeing drug violence, war and economic instability. Baptism is the strongest sacramental statement about our inherent human dignity.

PREPARES is the unique Catholic initiative that brings together these issues of justice with issues of life. PREPARES is the unique initiative of us bishops here in Washington State with the partnerships between our parishes and our Catholic Charities agencies. In a very deliberate way, we walk the journey of life with moms, their children both born and unborn, from the first moment of conception to the child's fifth birthday. We provide wrap-around support for them, their children, their spouses and their families in a variety of ways. PREPARES welcome baskets provide basic diapers and baby supplies. PREPARES connects our mothers to parenting sup-



Bishop Joseph Tyson

port such as "Play and Learn." Our Catholic Charities team works with a group of highly trained parish volunteers who become family companions those first five years of life and even beyond. Those volunteers are one-stop support that can often coordinate the meeting of these moms' needs with other supportive groups.

During our recent gathering of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, PREPARES in the Diocese of Yakima was featured on a video seen by all the nation's bishops. We are all aware that the United States Supreme Court has been hearing arguments about local state laws which would enhance the protection of the rights of the unborn. Yet even if today's U.S. Supreme Court were to change or overturn the 1973 decision *Roe vs. Wade*, in Washington State abortion would remain legal. Why? Because Washington State legalized abortion through Referendum 20 in 1970, before *Roe vs. Wade*. Indeed, while many states had some form of legal abortion prior to *Roe vs. Wade*, Washington State was the only state to have legalized abortion **by popular ballot**.

I was honored that Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, who just finished his term as the USCCB's chair for Pro-Life Activities, invited me to present PREPARES to their committee. I was grateful that Darlene Darnell, our president of Catholic Charities here in Central Washington, was able to join me. During our deliberations as bishops this last November, both Archbishop Naumann and Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, who chairs our USCCB committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, noted that while many states would be able to protect the unborn legally on the state level, many other states would need to find ways to promote protection through "love." This is why PRE-

PARES has become noted on the national level. We need to change hearts in order to change minds.

I am always struck how PREPARES not only touches the lives of new moms, but how PREPARES touches the lives of our volunteers. Right before the COVID-19 shutdown, I had the privilege of spending time with our PREPARES volunteers at a retreat in Wenatchee. It was so moving to hear in Spanish of the many ways PREPARES has built friendships between young moms and more seasoned and experienced moms. COVID-19 did not deter our efforts, with the wonderful use of Zoom for retreats and conferences supporting our PREPARES volunteers both professionally and spiritually.

While we uplift our efforts in January during our annual Mass for Life each year, note that in February, right around Valentine's Day we give everyone across Washington State a chance to support our efforts to support moms and their children through our "Open Your Hearts" campaign supporting PREPARES.

Our Emeritus Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI succinctly notes: "God comes as a baby." We have much for which to give thanks at our annual Mass for Life. And yet, for PREPARES to flourish in the future there is still much that lies ahead. My thanks to all of you who in any way support any of our pro-life ministries from collecting basic needs for newborns to the services provided by various pregnancy resource centers. I hope you will join me and look a bit ahead of the curve as the U.S. Supreme Court considers cases concerning the rights of the unborn. I hope you will also note the very unique challenges here in Washington State, too.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend 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.

The Joy of Christmas Can Remain With Us Throughout the Year

Courtesy of Virtus

Finding joy in all things is the way we Catholics are raised. It is a way of life for us to find light in the darkness, humor in the challenging, determination and fortitude in the face of despair and isolation. Our model for this joyful way of life is engrained in our DNA and comes from the Holy Family, made most especially tangible in the Christmas narrative from the moment of the Annunciation through the Flight to Egypt.

The birth of Jesus, entering our world as a helpless infant, models forever for us the need for love and care – not only to be extended to our fellow human beings, but to be able to receive the gift of Love graciously. When we are vulnerable, we open ourselves to Joy. By allowing others to minister to us, we appreciate the gift of God in and through them, and we see His love for

us in a direct way.

Joy comes through relationships. When our dear Blessed Mother turned to Saint Joseph, he responded in love. When the Holy Family needed shelter, they reached out and someone helped. When they fled to Egypt, you can be certain that others assisted them on their journey. There are many unknown and hidden saints from those days, known only to this young, struggling family who most certainly accepted God's love through them.

And so, we, on our earthy pilgrimage, might now find ourselves being refugees from one place or thing or another. We



might be isolated because of our needs for survival and respect for others. We might be without work, shelter or good health. We might be poor and lonely and feel forgotten. We know one thing, however. Joy brings us together in a million little ways. May we all be united to each other this

Christmas in total Joy – despite the challenges!

A Merry and Joyous Christmas to you and all those you love.

Note: Virtus provides safe environment training materials to the three dioceses in Washington State as well as to many church organizations throughout the United States.

Communications Collection Will Support Local Projects, 'Spread the Gospel'

Throughout the Diocese of Yakima on the weekend of January 15-16, parishes will take up a second collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign, which seeks to connect people with Christ through the internet, television, radio, and print media.

Fifty percent of the funds collected stay in the Diocese to support local projects. In 2020, more than \$15,000 was given to parishes and schools to assist with livestreaming Masses and other communication

efforts amidst the coronavirus. The Diocese is preparing to offer a new round of grants in light of the latest wave of the omicron variant of the illness.

The other fifty percent of donations received helps fund national communications efforts as well as projects in developing countries. The documentary film Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story, for example, was made with support from the campaign and looked into her life

as a journalist, peace activist, and Catholic whose Catholic Worker Houses show hospitality to the poorest and most vulnerable in our midst. Dorothy Day's life of Christian virtue has led to her being declared "Venerable" by the Church, putting her on the path to beatification.

"By generously supporting this collection, you are spreading the Gospel and helping others encounter Christ every day," said Bishop Joseph Tyson.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." – Luke 2:10



Blessings from the Central Washington Catholic Foundation during this holiday season.



<https://cwcatholicfoundation.org/>

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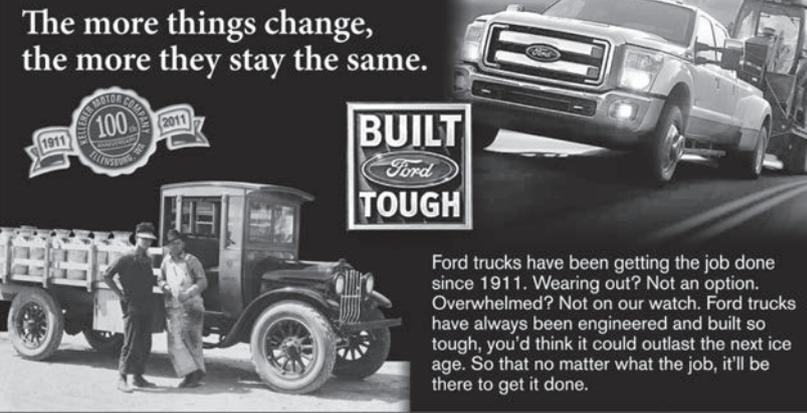
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New Priest Comes to Our Lady of Fatima Church

The Diocese of Yakima has been blessed with a new priest. Father Edwin Lozada began serving earlier this month as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Moses Lake. With an interest in diocesan ministry, he has received permission from his bishop in Colombia to work with us for up to five years.

Born in Charala, Santander, Colombia – the same area where Fr. Francisco Higuera of our Diocese is from – Father Lozada is the youngest of 11 siblings in a Catholic family. He has vivid memories of being four years old, impressed by the sight of a priest at Mass, and again, at age eight, when he returned from Mass and told his mother, “I want to be a priest.” (His mother responded that he should behave well, because priests set an example to follow!) At the age of 14, he recalls sitting before the Blessed Sacrament and having the sense, “You are going to be this.”

Father Edwin attended the seminary in San Gil, Santander, taking time off for a while to teach philosophy. He then

entered the Konrad Lorenz University Foundation to study psychology. His studies were going well, and he received a scholarship. He went to pray at the Shrine of Miracles in Bogota, to give thanks. There he again sensed God’s call to the priesthood. “When I was leaving the temple, I heard, ‘Do you think I’m wrong?’” Father recalled. “I think that was the greatest moment I have ever had in my life. I left there and everything was left behind.”

Not long afterward, Father Edwin joined the Ad Gentes Javerian Contemplative Missionaries, headquartered in Pereira, Colombia, and finished his seminary studies at the Seminary of Saint



Father Edwin Lozada

Pius X in Tadó. In 2013, at the age of 35, he was ordained a priest. At first, the plan was to send him to Italy. However, in 2014, he was redirected to Brooklyn, New York where he served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Most recently, he spent three years serving at a shrine in Rome and completing a licentiate degree in social communications in the Church.

Eventually, he discerned the call to focus on diocesan ministry, and visited the Diocese of Yakima last spring to get better acquainted. He returned to Colombia to consult with his bishop, who agreed to Bishop Joseph Tyson’s request to provide him an assignment here.

“Being a priest means that one begins to understand oneself as a response to the existence of God,” Fr. Edwin observed.

We welcome Father Edwin to the Diocese of Yakima and pray that he will be richly blessed in his ministry here.

Won't You Join The Upcoming January Novena for Life?

Catholics nationwide are preparing to pray *9 Days for Life*, the annual pro-life novena beginning on January 19, 2022.

This pro-life novena is an opportunity for recollection and reparation in observation of the anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade* – the Supreme Court decision



that made abortion legal throughout the United States and which may be under challenge soon in the Court.

The overarching intention of the novena is the end to abortion. Each daily intention highlights a related topic and is accompanied by a reflection, educational information, and suggested daily actions. The novena encompasses the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22. All are invited to sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9rn3wy>.

Participants can receive the novena in English or Spanish via email or text message, or access it online. Participants can share their pro-life witness and invite their social networks to pray on social media with the hashtag #9DaysforLife.

Sponsored by the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *9 Days for Life* began in 2013 in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

Pray for Upcoming Hearings Concerning Human Life

As the battle for human life intensifies across the United States, it is important for Catholics to be aware of pending legislative and court actions, to intensify prayer, and, as possible, to let your voice be heard in defense of the dignity of every human being!

For example, on January 7, the Federal Appeals Court based in Louisiana is scheduled to hear oral arguments centered on the new Texas law which bans abortion at about six weeks of pregnancy. This follows a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court not to block enforcement of the law.

Other states including Mississippi have also helped to set the stage for what could be a challenge to *Roe vs. Wade*, the 1973 court decision that legalized abortion in the United States.

Closer to home, the Washington State Legislature is due to convene again on January 10 in Olympia. A list of “pre-filed” bills due to come under consideration contains one bill regarding prohibiting abortions



by medication and another bill about privacy rights for minors, for example. No further details were immediately available. If you wish to leave a message for your State Senator or Representative, you can call the Legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000 or contact

the individual legislator’s Olympia office.

So, follow the news, do some research online and pray endlessly for respect for human life from conception through natural death.