



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

JUNE 2020 *Letter*

Masses Resume, in Various Settings, Across the Diocese of Yakima

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Amid gusting winds and a distant roll of thunder, parishioners of **Holy Family Church in Yakima** gathered in front of their church on June 6 for the first outdoor Mass since pandemic restrictions eased. With temperatures hovering in the 60s, numerous attendees bundled in blankets as the wind extinguished altar candles and toppled several chairs.

Yet, as in other parishes across the Diocese of Yakima, most participants remained in place, adjusting to the new circumstances and happy to be back at Mass after more than two months with only online liturgies. Almost 90 people had registered for this Saturday Mass, with a limit of 100 people allowed.

"No one expected it to be that cold," observed parishioner and attendee, Kay Gamache. However, "I'm pretty sure it will get better as we go along," she suggested.

"I think they're trying to do the best they can to adapt to the situation," agreed her husband and parishioner, Ron Gamache.

With Yakima County's coronavirus cases remaining high, outdoor Masses appear to be the only option for the county's churches in the near future.

Across the Diocese in **Wenatchee**, part of Chelan County, coronavirus numbers have also remained higher. **St. Joseph Church** began offering outdoor Masses on Sunday, June 14, said LuAnne Sells, office manager for the parish.

"It takes a lot more people and a lot more thought" to organize this new variety of Mass, she observed.

Although attendance ranged from about 98 to 70 to 35 people attending the first weekend's Masses, out of a maximum capacity of 100 people, those who came



Parishioners of Holy Family Church in Yakima braved the cold for their first outdoor Mass, as reopening began.

were cooperative, she said.

"They've all come with masks. They all respect the guidelines," she noted. It's been a joyous "welcome back home" to resume Mass. "I'm so happy to see the people and they're happy to see each other," she enthused.

In **Richland**, part of Benton County, **Christ the King Church** also began offering two outdoor weekend Masses.

"We've not had full crowds yet," observed Monsignor Tom Champoux, pastor. "It's slow, but I expect that once we find that we will need more spaces, we'll add more Masses."

Seniors, in particular, appear hesitant to venture out quite yet, he observed.

"Our elders are basically staying home," he said. "They're not wanting to chance it." However, other parishioners who "very much want the Eucharist" are coming.

For one of the smaller Yakima County parishes, **St.**

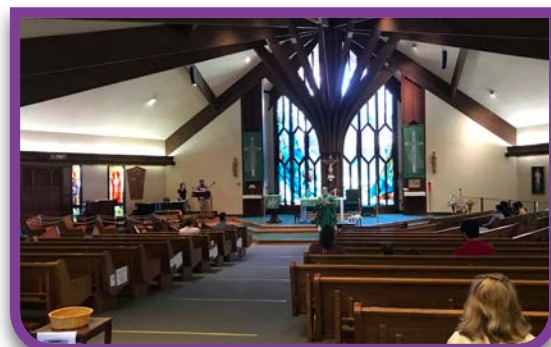
Mary in White Swan, Masses are just getting underway. An outdoor "practice Mass" was planned for Sunday, June 21, on the patio behind the church, said Father Bill Shaw, pastor. Only about 10 people would attend.

"We're trying to see if we can follow all the rules," he observed.

In other Central Washington counties,

where coronavirus cases have been fewer, indoor Masses began in June.

In Grant County, for example, indoor Masses resumed on June 6 at **Our Lady of Fatima Church in Moses Lake**. Gatherings are limited to 50 people in the main church, explained Father Dan Dufner, pastor, and member of the Seattle Archdiocesan Sacramental Life Reopening Committee charged with helping to write a reopening guidance document. Attendees are instructed to wear masks and every other pew is roped off to leave a distance of more than six feet between. In the narthex, a separate area walled by glass, another 10 to 20 chairs were set up in what Father Dufner kiddingly called "the cheap seats."



There has been a "slow return" of parishioners to church, observed Father David Jimenez of St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg.

For clergy and staff across the Diocese, it's been a matter of "balancing a powerful reverence for Mass with what we need to do to keep people safe," he noted. "You need to have a team together and they all need to be on the same page, to know what their role is and why they're doing it."

Even with masks, it's an "ongoing education process," he continued. In Spanish, for example, a term for mask means "mouth covering." Thus, it's necessary to emphasize that both the mouth and nose must be covered for safety of the mask wearer and others around him or her.

At Communion, parishioners are instructed to extend a hand forward, as flat as possible, so that the Host may be placed on the hand. If there is any contact with a communicant's hand, the priest or deacon distributing Communion must set the ciborium down and sanitize his hands for

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Parishioners at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Moses Lake practiced social distancing at a recent Mass.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

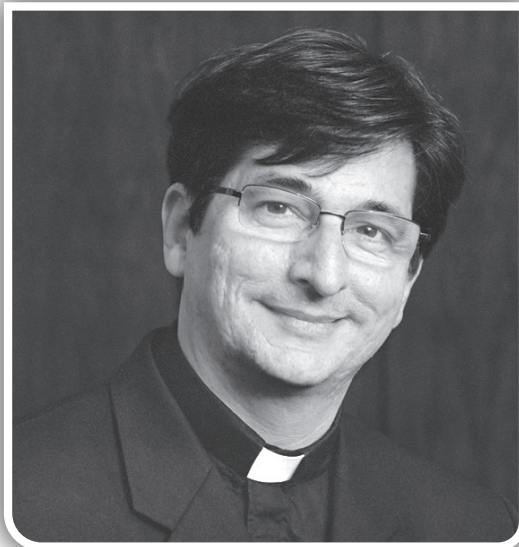
Dear Friends:

As summer begins with the new cherries, peaches, apricots, plums and nectarines appearing in our fruit stands, it's good to remember how Jesus used agricultural images in his preaching and teaching. Weeds and wheat. The mustard seed. Treasures in the field. Ours is a relationship graphically described in the Gospel of St. Matthew where we are "yoked" to Him as he shows us the way.

PREPARES is the signature pro-life ministry from the Catholic bishops of Washington State. We walk the journey of life with women and their families from the moment of conception through the fifth birthday of the child. We do so with a layered outreach of material needs, parenting support and friendship with experienced women already seasoned in motherhood.

An unexpected pregnancy becomes easy and light – to again echo that Gospel from St. Matthew – when we become Jesus for those in need, allowing ourselves to bear the yoke with our women in need as well as their families. I cannot tell you how inspiring it was for me to be with our Spanish-speaking PREPARES volunteers on their retreat day prior to the eruption of COVID-19. Now, through technology, many of those same volunteers stay connected to each other even as they reach out personally, with due COVID-19 safety procedures, to women needing support.

For nearly 50 years, abortion has been legal here in Washington State due to Referendum 20. Washington State was the only state in the United States to have legalized abortion by popular ballot prior to Roe vs. Wade. This means that even if Roe vs. Wade were reversed and the decision on abortion were returned



Bishop Joseph Tyson

to local states, most likely Washington State would still have abortion. We have a daunting judicial and legislative task ahead due to our unique history here in Washington State.

But all the more reason not to wait for a political or judicial solution. PREPARES provides a joyous and uplifting alternative. In a state that is markedly "pro-choice," PREPARES gives our wider community the beauty of pro-life moments. The stories of lives changed – not only of the women served, but the volunteers who serve them – marks the unique way the Catholic Church in Washington State grounds its teaching on life inside the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

It now seems like a lifetime ago, but just prior to the onset of COVID-19, we bishops of the Pacific Northwest had the privilege of meeting with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, during our "ad limina" visit. With great clarity, he reminded us of his own thought that the greatest danger for youth today was around the question of

gender and sexual identity. Rather than a consumeristic tendency to select our identity, Pope Francis spoke about the inherent identity of male and female. He spoke of the natural result of the gift of life. He warned of the "throw away" culture that fuels abortion, sets a tone for our abuse of the environment and makes refugees and migrants – including the undocumented – as merely disposable. It is no accident that the "throw away" culture he sees underneath the killing of the unborn echoes in his writing "Laudato Si" on the environment, as well as "The Joy of the Gospel" and his dream of a Church that is missionary and directed outward toward those on the peripheries.

As we begin to open up in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am grateful for the many ways that PREPARES, like so many of our parish ministries, has engaged new forms of communication and media to keep alive the need to provide love and care for the most vulnerable in our midst as well as their mothers, their dads, and their families regardless of language, race, culture, or even legal status.

I hope you will be inspired as I am by this feature article on PREPARES as well as the many other noteworthy events in the Diocese of Yakima. We may have needed to close for a while due to COVID-19, but we never stopped the ministry, never stopped our prayer and never stopped living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this, I am very grateful.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Masses Resume, in Various Settings, Across the Diocese of Yakima *Continued from page 1*

20 seconds before resuming distribution, Father Dufner said.

St. Andrew Church in Ellensburg, part of Kittitas County, also resumed inside Masses in June.

"It's not a tsunami of people," as of yet, observed Father David Jimenez, pastor. "People are more cautious, more careful."

St. Andrew's also has "social distancing" in hand, with seating allowed only at the ends of every other pew, although families can occupy an entire pew.

Privately, parish representatives from churches across the Diocese admit that there are a few individuals who haven't quite gotten with the program, regarding the new restrictions for Mass. Although

Mass is supposed to be as brief as possible to reduce potential exposure to illness, some can't understand why they can't say the Rosary beforehand. Others come too close to the priest or deacon distributing Communion. And then, there are the issues of proper mask wearing and social distancing among parishioners.

However, we again have Mass. In the words of Pope Saint John Paul II, "From this moment on, live the Eucharist fully; be persons for whom the Holy Mass, Communion and Eucharistic adoration are the center and summit of their whole life." Stay tuned to your parish website and the diocesan website for updates on Masses and other sacramental offerings.

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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Collection Assists Retired Priests and Seminarians

Monsignor Perron Auve and Father John O'Shea have been ordained priests 58 years and 60 years respectively. Deacon Michael Kelly and Father Edgar Quiroga have been ordained for a little more than a month. Yet the four of them have some important things in common.

First, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has brought important changes to their lives. Second, each of them continues to benefit from the annual Collection for Priest Retirement and Seminarian Education, set to be taken up soon in our Diocese. It's a collection that faces its own challenges, given the slow reopening of our parishes.

Msgr. Auve and Fr. O'Shea live at Parkview Estates, an assisted living community in Kennewick that has been on lockdown since March to keep the residents safe from infection. Since they can't leave the facility, or even receive visitors in person, they have focused more deeply on a life of prayer for their fellow residents and for all of us. The annual collection in part supports the cost of assisted living. Also, both men generously donate part of their monthly pensions from the Diocese to pay for 25 percent of their care.

Deacon Kelly was ordained a transitional deacon May 15, with one more year of studies to complete at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago before he is ordained a priest. Only a handful of family members were able to be present, serving in various capacities in the Mass that was livestreamed from St.

Paul Cathedral in Yakima.

Father Quiroga was ordained to the priesthood a week later, under similar circumstances, and is now serving at Christ the King Parish in Richland. He has already begun summer studies through an online program with Mundelein to eventually earn an advanced degree in theology.

The annual collection is forecast to bring in \$204,100 this year, with \$190,000 budgeted for seminarian education – a bit less than one-third of the total estimated cost this next year of \$644,900 for 13 seminarians. Grants and scholarships help make up the balance.

Less than \$15,000 from the collection is budgeted for priest retirement because of the past generous support of parishioners for the Capital Campaign for Priest Retirement and Seminarian Education, and the Bishop's Founders Circle program. The Diocese estimates one additional priest will need assisted living care this coming year, and 17 men are receiving benefits as senior priests. Pensions and health plan costs are paid through the Priest Retirement Trust, which has substantially recovered from the steep market drop in February and March.

In past years, seminarians have visited each parish on weekends through June and



July to promote the collection. They may not be as visible this summer due to the phased reopening of public Masses in our Diocese, but be assured they are continuing their summer formation work, including participation in migrant ministry; the Literacy Wagon program to help children of migrant workers; and assistance to pastors in implementing their Mass reopening plans.

Something all our senior priests and seminarians have in common is that they have said "yes" to a lifetime of service to the Church. To make a donation, visit www.yakimadiocese.org, click on the "Donations" link, and find the collection page, or go directly to the page through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3hw96h>.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage Is Planned

Plans are still underway for a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia, with added time in Italy, from October 28 to November 10.

Father Richard Sedlacek, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Selah, will serve as spiritual director on this journey which will visit the site where Blessed Mother is reported to have appeared in 1981.

For more details, including costs and itinerary, or to register for the pilgrimage, contact Gary at (877) 333-9290 or visit magnificattours@aol.com.

Visit our Website!



Faith Education Funding Available

College Scholarships Religious Education Programs Tuition Assistance

Welcome New Foundation Director

The Central Washington Catholic Foundation would like to welcome **Nicole St. Mary-Franson** as the new Executive Director. Nicole looks forward to leading the Foundation in Catholic philanthropy and to pass the Faith heritage to future generations through scholarships, religious education support, and tuition assistance to the 40 parishes and seven Catholic schools in the Yakima Diocese.

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www.cwatholicfoundation.org



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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Monsignor Harte Dies



Monsignor Fachta Joseph Harte, formerly of the Diocese of Yakima, died May 30 at the age of 90.

Monsignor Harte, a native of Ireland, was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Yakima in 1961 and served here until 1970. He was a priest of the

Diocese of Orlando, Florida, from 1970 until the time of his death.

Please keep him and all of our departed clergy and religious in your prayers.

'Rice Bowl' Benefits Many

Thanks to your generosity, 17 diocesan ministries that serve the needy are the recipients of \$1,000 grants from the local share of the Rice Bowl collection.

The Rice Bowl collection is taken in parishes 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 Rice Bowl Grants to the following ministries:

St. Andrew's Parish Community Garden, Ellensburg; St. Andrew's Parish St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, Ellensburg; Our Lady of Fatima Soup Kitchen, Moses Lake; St. Vincent de Paul Conference, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Kennewick; Parish of the Holy Spirit, Kennewick; St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, St. Joseph Parish, Wenatchee; St. Joseph Parish's (Wenatchee) work at the Sage Bluff Migrant Camp, Malaga; St. Joseph Parish's (Wenatchee) Youth Ministry; Holy Redeemer Parish's sandwich ministry, Yakima; St. Joseph Parish, White Salmon; St. John the Baptist/Immaculate Conception, Cle Elum/Roslyn; Holy Family Parish, St. Vincent Ministry, Yakima; Kinship Navigation Program, Catholic Charities, Southeast Washington; St. Juan Diego Parish, Cowiche; Care and Share Food Bank, Grand Coulee; Generating Hope/Noah's Ark Homeless Shelter, Wapato; and Toppenish Community Chest, Toppenish.

For information on the Rice Bowl Grant Program, contact Leanne LaBissoniere, parish outreach coordinator for Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, at llabissoniere@catholiccharitiescw.org.

Sisters of Providence Mark Special Anniversaries

Two Sisters of Providence, with ties to the Diocese of Yakima, recently marked milestone anniversaries in religious life. Due to pandemic restrictions, celebration of these anniversaries will be delayed until 2021.



Sister Karin Dufault, SP – 60 years

Born and raised in Yakima, Sister Karin grew up influenced by teachers and extended family who lived in service to God and the

community.

After joining the Sisters of Providence, she ministered as a nurse, then moved into health care administration – eventually landing back in her hometown as administrator at St. Elizabeth Hospital. Sister Karin also served as executive director of Supportive Care Coalition: Pursuing Excellence in Palliative Care, a collaboration among 20 Catholic health systems to improve the quality of care for people living with serious illness.

Sister Karin was elected provincial leader of Mother Joseph Province in 2010, then congregational leader for Providence

International, Montreal, where she continues in her leadership role through October 2022.



Sister Maggie Pastro, SP – 50 years

Born at the old Providence Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska, Sister Maggie was inspired by the Sisters of Providence

during her Catholic school education in Seattle.

She began as a teacher, including time at St. Paul and St. Joseph schools in Yakima, then moved into ministries with poor and vulnerable women, children and elders in Washington and Oregon. Sister Maggie particularly enjoyed her 18-year ministry as director of mission integration for Providence Health Plans of Oregon where she was responsible for ethics, community benefits and integration of mission and values in the workplace.

Currently, Sister lives in Beaverton, Oregon, and serves on the sponsor board for Providence St. Joseph Health.

Please join in praying for these dedicated sisters who have served our community.

PREPARES Witnesses A Moving Miracle

The Garcias were in a tough spot. Wesley is paralyzed, and his wife, Desiree, was desperate to find a way to get the family to all the places they needed to go. Without a van equipped for Wesley, they were stuck in their apartment, far from shopping, schools and public transportation. This was not their only need, but it was the largest, and they came to PREPARES for help. Although the ministry usually focuses on families with small children, they were not turned away.

Some needs were met, but there was no van. Volunteers working with the family began to pray. A Tri-Cities woman reached out to Melody and Rick Reed from Christ the King in Richland, who had recently lost their disabled daughter, Myranda.

As volunteer Lindy Styer put it in a letter to the Reeds, "Myranda must have been whispering peacefully to your spirits. Perhaps she desired to transform your grief to joy, the joy of spiritual detachment from 'things,' the joy of uplifting another hurting family. Myranda could leave a legacy of a



thriving family who also cope with the burdens of disability. Graciously, you offered Myranda's van to the Garcias."

Lindy says, "Had I not been accompanying the Garcias as a PREPARES Family Companion, I wouldn't have experienced this miracle or met Jesus on this particular journey.

I'm grateful that family companionship puts me squarely on the road to Emmaus."

Publicize Your News

Has someone from your parish been recognized with an award or honor? Has a parish group gone the extra mile to help others during the pandemic? Do you have a beautiful new statue, shrine or other feature at your church? The *Central Washington Catholic* staff would be happy to consider publicizing your news!

Send your information to robertsiler@yakimadiocese.org by the first of the month in which you would like your information to run.