



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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AUGUST 2021 *Letter*

The Feast of The Assumption: Celebrating The End of a Remarkable Life

By Christine Corbett Conklin

On August 15, we celebrated the feast day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This special commemoration marks a one-of-a-kind event in human history.

“It is believed that Mary fell asleep and was assumed into Heaven body and soul,” said Very Rev Michael Ibach, judicial vicar of the Diocese of Yakima and parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish in Yakima, in a telephone interview. “She’s the only human being who has been given that privilege.”

Originally celebrated as the “Dormition,” referring to a death that resembles just falling asleep, the feast day “goes back to the fifth century, both in the Eastern and Latin churches,” Father Ibach observed. “Mary had no sin so she wouldn’t be suffering from death.” From



her Immaculate Conception throughout her life, she remained “dedicated to God and His will. She was a model of faithfulness.”

We don’t know how old Mary was when her earthly life ended, however “we assume that she probably lived to be an older woman,” he continued. With St. John looking after her, she likely was living in the area that is present-day Turkey.

Sometimes, we tend to put Mary “up on a pedestal like she was in a bubble,” Father

Ibach observed. To the contrary, her feet were planted firmly on the ground. She would have washed laundry in the river, drawn drinking water from a well and even changed Baby Jesus’ soiled clothes. And, like any parent, “she worried about her Son” and his trials.

“Mary wasn’t a ‘super human being,’” he explained. “She had the daily struggles that we have in our lives. She experienced human life very much like we do. She was put in a position of some difficulty.”

As Catholics, we do not worship Mary. However, we venerate her “because she is a real role model of what it is to be a faithful Christian, a faithful follower of Christ.”

Prayers to Mary are believed to be very powerful.

“She was given by Christ to the Church as a mother to us,” Father Ibach said. “We pray to her and ask her to pray for us for our particular needs.” We are all brothers and sisters here on earth and, as we call upon family members when we are in need, we can call upon the Mother of Christ who is also our mother in Heaven.

“What mother in our (earthly) lives doesn’t get our attention?” he asked.

The Memorare prayer is a beautiful way to begin our devotions:

Remember, oh most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly to thee, oh virgin of virgins, my mother. To thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. Oh mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Virtual Cornerstone Conference Set for October

You are invited to attend the virtual Cornerstone Catholic Conference, presented by the Bishops of Washington State, on October 29-30. The theme of the biennial conference is “Forming Disciples for Life and Justice.” Registration and attendance are free.

For information and schedule, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2y2mr2h3>. Parishes may wish to organize “watch parties” and small faith-sharing groups may want to gather together as well.

The schedule for Friday, October 29, will include a virtual exhibition and meeting hub, welcome and virtual platform training and orientation (in both English and Spanish), plus

Adoration in Spanish.

On Saturday, October 30, morning highlights will feature keynote speakers Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., who will discuss “A Case for the Inalienable Rights of the Pre-Born” and Brenda Noriega, who will explore “Love Your Neighbor As Yourself! And Who Is My Neighbor?”. Workshops will offer presentations by Father Agustino Torres on “Maintaining Christian Joy in Times of Darkness”; Monsignor Ray East on “Catholic Social Teaching: The Foundation for Living Faithfully, Respecting Life, and Acting Justly”; and Aleah Patulot on PREPARES (Pregnancy & Parenting Support). Bishop Joseph Tyson and a panel will

discuss “COVID-19: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities”; Camille Pauley will explore “Doing Pro-Life Education the EASY WAY!”; and a Faith In Action panel will review “Advocacy and Ministries.”

Later, all Washington State bishops will present a panel discussion on a variety of topics, with questions and answers. Afternoon keynote speakers will be Gloria Purvis on “What Do the Racial Justice and Pro-Life Movements Have in Common?” (English); and Father Agustino Torres on “Catholicism and Colonialism: The Truth and Teachings of the Church Against Slavery (Spanish).”

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A Message from Bishop Tyson...

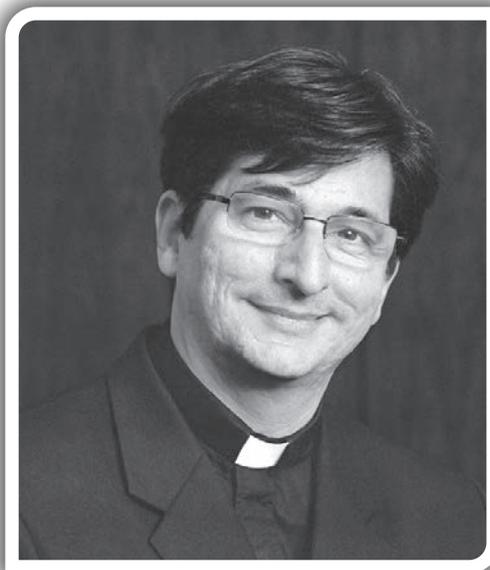
Dear Friends:

Welcome to another edition of the *Central Washington Catholic*. Even with COVID-19, we can be grateful that our children are heading back to school. While some students excelled in the remote learning format, others did not.

Last week, I was getting my car serviced at Kelleher Motors in Ellensburg. One of the younger workers there gave me a lift to St. Andrew Catholic Church where I worked from my laptop during the day. This young worker knew me from my occasional Masses and presentations with Catholic Campus Ministry at Central Washington University. I also learned he took a year away from school last year because he didn't feel he was learning much from a remote learning platform. He is headed back this year because he was vaccinated – a requirement of the University – and because that is how he learns best. In person. Face-to-face.

Face-to-face learning is what I watched among a group of high school boys who were on our Quo Vadis retreat a few years ago. We played a game called "Catholic Jeopardy." The question on the board: "These months are called 'Marian Months.'" The boys all clamored for the answer "December!" They were shocked to learn that October and May were considered the Marian months in the life of the Church. "No way," one of the students responded. Formed by the deep festivities in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December, these budding young Catholics felt and experienced the weight of the Marian devotion based on one particular feast.

Yet, a careful review of the Church's liturgical calendar reveals a cycle of Marian



Bishop Joseph Tyson

feasts that parallels the cycle of celebrations tied to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Thus, if Jesus's birth is celebrated on December 25th, then the feasts of the Immaculate Conception December 8 and Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12 anchor Advent as a kind of Marian Lent. Note that violet is the color of Lent with the coloring being two parts red and one part blue. Advent's color is purple with two parts blue and one part red, honoring the blue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Likewise, our Feast of the Assumption August 15 is a logical extension of the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ. Where Jesus ascends, Mary follows. Where Mary ascends, we follow. Mary points us to the way of Jesus. How appropriate to have Father Michael Ibach give us a little background on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I am sure some in our parishes

were surprised that this solemnity would preempt the regular cycle of Sunday readings. But the Feast of the Assumption is the capstone in the cycle of Marian feasts.

Indeed, in the development of doctrine, all of our Marian feasts are tied to doctrinal truth about Jesus. Jesus is fully human and fully divine. That is direct from the Council of Chalcedon in 451. From this council, we also get confirmation of the declaration made at the First Council of Ephesus that Mary is both "Mother of God" and "Mother of Jesus." By extension, we understand that in the same way Jesus was like us in all things but sin, the Blessed Virgin Mary was immaculately conceived, free from original sin.

While such doctrines can seem, at first glance, to be distant and remote from our daily lives, our assimilation of them reveals deep truths about the nature of our humanity, our orientation in this life and our destination in the world to come.

As our lives go in new directions at the start of this school year, I hope we can all take time to reflect, as did the Blessed Virgin Mary, on the deeper compass that God plants in each of our hearts. May the magnetism of His love keep us pointed to our ultimate destination of eternal life, even as we deal with the controversies, polarities and struggles of the world in which we live.

Be assured of my prayers for you as I ask you to pray for me, too!

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Father Alberto Cerezo, Senior Priest, Dies

Father Alberto Cerezo Fernandez, a senior priest of the Diocese of Yakima, died August 16, following a weekend preaching assignment in Petersburg, Virginia, for the organization, Food for the Poor. He was 86 and had suffered from atherosclerotic disease.

Born in Madrid, Spain to Emilio Cerezo and Elena Fernandez, he is survived by his sister, Elena Cerezo Fernandez; niece Elena Sanchez Cerezo; nephews Pedro Sanchez Cerezo and Jorge Sánchez Cerezo, and other family members in Spain.

After attending elementary school in Madrid, he entered the minor seminary

of Alcala de Menares in 1947. He graduated from the major seminary, Seminario Conciliar de Madrid, in 1960 and was ordained to the priesthood in Madrid.

Father Cerezo served in Madrid until 1968, when he came to the U.S. to serve the growing Hispanic population. He also received a



Father Alberto Cerezo

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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.

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Sharing the Faith with my Family as a Survivor of Child Sexual Abuse

Courtesy of Virtus

I am an adult survivor of child sexual abuse by a member of the clergy. My abuser was a priest, who was the adult leader of the altar boys at the time. My memories of being an altar boy during those early teenage years are like a deep, dark, emotionally conflicted mess. It might seem odd, then, that my wife and I allowed our daughter and son to be altar servers as youth.



there in the pew, as each of them served on the altar for the first time. My most vivid memory is how, after my son's first time altar serving, I was waiting for him after Mass in the rear of the church. I observed an older parishioner I didn't know, come up to him and thank him for serving. They spoke for several moments, and although I did not hear what was said, I watched the

exchange: he shook my son's hand and my son turned to me, smiling.

That image has remained with me for years: father, son and stranger, sharing their faith together through the celebration of the Mass. Working hard to keep all children safe in our parish and in the larger Catholic community gives me hope that we can

continue to pass along our rich faith tradition from one generation to the next. I want to pass my faith along to my children, and I am blessed to have witnessed that in action that morning. That parishioner gave both of us a great gift: a reminder that our Catholic faith is shared. I am blessed to be in a parish community that supports and celebrates a safe environment for children so that no child will have to endure what I did.

I want every parent, every staff member, every employee – in fact, everyone in the community, to know that you have a great opportunity to protect all children and even, perhaps, save their lives. You are an integral part of the prevention of sexual abuse.

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.

Father Alberto Cerezo, Senior Priest, Dies *Continued from page 2*

master's degree in counseling psychology. He became a U.S. citizen in 1974. Assignments in California, Texas and New York preceded his move to the Yakima Diocese in 1979, officially joining the Diocese in 1982.

He did general Hispanic ministry, as well as parish work in Toppenish, Moses Lake, and Warden. He was pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Waterville; Sacred Heart

Parish, Prosser; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Cashmere; and Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Leavenworth.

In 1995, Fr. Cerezo began an Hispanic ministry assignment in Seattle, with limited ministry there continuing after his 2002 retirement. For many years, he traveled extensively to visit Catholic parishes around the country to share the mission of Food for

the Poor.

Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for August 27, with burial following at Calvary Cemetery in Seattle. Donations may be made in his memory to the Diocese of Yakima Seminarian Education Fund, P.O. Box 2189, Yakima, WA 98907-2189; or Food for the Poor, 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073. May he rest in peace.



Celebration of Faith 2021

Saturday, October 9th, 2021

More information coming soon.

Check out our website for the Spring Newsletter and to learn more about upcoming events at:

<https://cwcatholicfoundation.org>

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Retirement Collection Supports Hermitage

The annual special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious and Beit Mery Hermitage, September 18-19 in the Diocese of Yakima, includes support for the housing and health care needs of Sister Janet Strong, our diocesan hermit.

A professed hermit for more than 35 years, Sister Janet has remained unceasingly in prayer for the needs of the people of the Diocese of Yakima since her arrival in 1997. Retired from a career as a psychiatric nurse, Sister Janet is provided by the Diocese with housing in a small home in north Yakima, and assistance with her health care needs.

Fifty percent of the collection will be kept in the Diocese to help pay for that support. The balance will go to the Retirement Fund for Religious, which benefits nearly 30,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests – women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church.

"In these difficult days, you may feel as though your generosity has been exhausted. I ask just two things. First, please join me in praying for God's protection for all our elderly religious," said Bishop Joseph Tyson. "Second, please support the collection as you are able – and know that Sister Janet and the other women and men religious across the country hold you and your loved ones in grateful prayer."

Mission Planned for White Salmon —

"Work Out Your Salvation!" is the theme of an October mission planned for St. Joseph Church in White Salmon.

All are invited to this special devotion presented by Father Wade Menezes of the Fathers of Mercy. Father Menezes has been a guest on various episodes of EWTN's "Mother Angelica Live" and "Life on the Rock."

Topics to be discussed include: "Be Faithful to Your Daily Duty"; "Be Other-Centered"; "Understand the Reality of Vice and Virtue"; "Practice and Live the Sacraments"; and "Live a Trinitarian Spirituality."

Father Menezes will preach at the Saturday evening Mass on October 9. The mission is scheduled for 7 to 8 p.m., October 10-14, with confessions heard each night from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and again at 8:30 p.m.

Know Your Faith: Catholic Teachings By The Numbers

How well do you know your Catholic Faith? See how many of the following questions you can answer, according to the numbers. Answers follow at the end.

1. Who is the one Founder of the Catholic Church?
2. What are the "two great commandments"?
3. What are the three "sources" of our Faith?
4. What are the four "marks" of the Catholic Church?
5. What are the five "precepts" (or obligations) of being a Catholic?
6. What are the six "images" of the Church?
7. What are the seven sacraments?
8. What are the eight Beatitudes?
9. What are the nine "choirs of angels"?
10. What are the 10 Commandments?

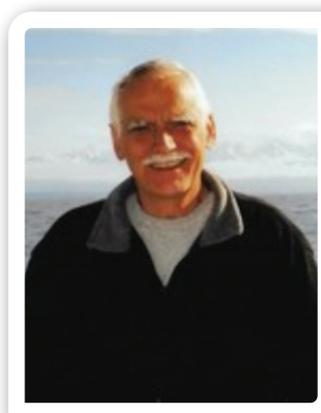


ANSWERS

Answers: 1.) Jesus Christ; 2.) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself; 3.) Sacred Scripture, sacred tradition and the Magisterium of the Church (the Church's authority to give authentic interpretation of the Word of God); 4.) One, holy, catholic and apostolic; 5.) To attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (when a pandemic dispensation is not in place), to go to Confession at least once a year, to receive Holy Communion during the Easter season (again, a pandemic dispensation may apply), to observe days of fasting and abstinence, and to support the work of the Church according to your ability; 6.) Institution, Communion, Sacrament, Herald, Servant and Community; 7.) Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony and the Sacrament of the Sick; 8.) Blessed are: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure of heart, peacemakers, those persecuted for the sake of righteousness; 9.) Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Archangels, Principalities, Angels; 10.) Thou shalt not have other gods before Me, thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain, keep holy the Sabbath, honor thy parents, and thou shalt not kill, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness, covet thy neighbor's wife or covet thy neighbor's goods.

Deacon LeRoi Rice of Richland Dies

A funeral Mass was held August 21 in Richland for Deacon LeRoi Rice, who died August 10, at the age of 85. In the early 1980s, he became one of the first ordained deacons in Christ the King Parish, serving for many years after that.



Deacon LeRoi Rice

A native of Portland, Oregon, Deacon Rice received a Metallurgical Engineering degree from the Colorado School of Mines, going on to work in Albany, Oregon. In 1961, he married Eleanor Mitchell. The couple moved to

Richland where Deacon Rice began his long career at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, working for General Electric and then Westinghouse. The couple had four children: Dan, Steve, Mark and Karen.

Deacon Rice completed a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Gonzaga University and served as Director of Religious Education for Christ the King Parish until

his retirement.

Donations can be made to either the Alzheimer's Association or Christ the King Church. Please keep Deacon Rice and all of our departed clergy and religious in your prayers.

Virtual Cornerstone Conference *Continued from page 1*

A mid-afternoon choice of workshops will include: Katherine Angulo on "Youth Ministry – Meeting the Realities of this Generation"; Monsignor Ray East on "Catholic Social Teaching: The Foundation For Living Faithfully, Respecting Life, And Acting Justly"; Aleah Patulot on PREPARES (Pregnancy & Parenting Support);

Bishop Joseph Tyson and a panel on "COVID-19: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities"; Camille Pauley on "Doing Pro-Life Education the EASY WAY!"; and a Faith In Action panel discussing "Advocacy and Ministries."

The conference will conclude with Mass, and virtual exhibitions and music performances will be interspersed in the schedule.