



*Parish of
the Holy
Spirit*

December 2023

A place to BELIEVE... BELONG... BECOME

Garden of the Holy Spirit

Parish cemetery project receives Diocesan blessing



Several parishioners attended the blessing of the new Holy Spirit burial area at Sunset Gardens in Richland with Bishop Tyson and Father Michael.

Photos courtesy Shelly Bohrmann



By Linda Garner

On October 4, Bishop Tyson with Fr. Michael blessed the Holy Spirit burial area, The Garden of the Holy Spirit Parish, located at Sunset Gardens in Richland. It was a warm, bright and sunny day and was attended by members of the Parish Council and many parishioners.

This project was the culmination of over five years of planning to provide the opportunity for the "Right to Burial" for our parishioners. The project is headed by members of the Parish Council, including Jim Carey, Curt Sloon and myself.

Originally, the committee looked at a place on the parish property. But it was determined that the Diocese would not approve this on any church property. The Diocese's concern is for the long-term care of any burial site. What if a church had to close and the Dio-

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Buen Camino

World-renowned pilgrimage provides a new lease on life

By Carlos León

The Camino de Santiago is a 1,000-year-old pilgrimage across the north of Spain. The route, called Camino Frances, is a nearly 500-mile-long (790 km) trek starting in St. Jean Pied de Port in France and ending in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain. It was a journey that I wanted and needed to take for many reasons.

It is said that miracles happen on the Camino, and after my 34-day journey, I believe that miracles and angels are abundant because God owns the Camino. I wrote to my five children during the journey and at one point one of them reported to others that I was crushing the Camino as I went forward mile after mile. I had to remind him that the Camino was crushing me everyday, and yet its burden was somehow healing me as well. We stayed in simple and bare accommodations called “albergues,” which for a few euros provided a bunk, a shower, and a chance to wash and dry clothes (hand washing in a sink).

The primary reason I undertook the pilgrimage was to start my life over. My wife Peggy died three years ago, and it was time for my tears of grief to be turned into tears of joy for her and be fully present to God, my children, grandchildren, friends and to whatever the future holds for me. The symbol of a *pelegrino* (pilgrim) is a clam shell, which is seen throughout the route making sure one doesn't go on the wrong path. Pelegrinos also carry them on their backpacks. I carried a small one around my neck with a lock of Peggy's hair glued to the inside of



The author and a group of new friends made along the way celebrate their arrival at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela after walking nearly 500 miles over more than a month.

Photo courtesy Carlos León

it and our initials on the outside.

I shared this story many times on the Camino and had many people supporting and praying for me as we went forward step by step. My goal was to reach Finisterre, which is known as the end of the world (in Roman times the shore of the

Atlantic Ocean was the end of the world). I was going to take off the shell around my neck and throw it into the ocean, and at 70 years old, God and I were going to start over. I also brought photos with me of Peggy and other family and left

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Marjie's Corner

Besides American Airlines ...

By Marjie Sloon

Today's topic is a little touchy. The holidays are upon us and I'm gonna say what I'm gonna say.

But first, my disclaimer:

"No offense" means I'm about to say something offensive but now if your feelings are hurt that's on you, because I told you not to take offense.

"Don't take this the wrong way" means you're about to take this exactly the right way but I'm absolved of guilt because I warned you to not take it that way.

So here goes. I'm going to be serious for a moment. I loved my mom. We enjoyed shopping together, going out to eat, having long talks. She cherished the time she had being a mom, and adored her grandchildren. Holidays could be loving and full and satisfying, and many were. Or ... she could be drinking.

No one sets out to become alcoholic. I can't begin to tell you why some people fall under the spell of alcohol. I can't address the chemical reaction or what's in the brain that wants it. All I can tell you is how it affected me, the adult child of an alcoholic.

It started when I was 18, the last child still living at home. Mom and Dad would have a drink together after work while she made dinner. The dinner would be ready, Dad and I would sit down to eat, but Mom would pour another drink and not sit down to the meal with us. It took her away from us. That was my sense, and the feeling I remember.

I learned that a person doesn't have to be drinking all the time to be alcoholic. They can go days, weeks, months, even years maybe, without a drink. But there's something there that draws them to it. And something there that changes them. Mom's personality would change when she drank. I didn't like it. I wanted my real mom, not this imposter.

This was all many years ago, but it's still hard to talk about. My mom has been gone for 10 years and even revealing this now, I feel like I'm betraying her. She didn't deserve that. But neither did I. My loved one's drinking changed me too. Even now at big holiday gatherings, I watch. Who is letting drinking be their

main event? Who is this taking them away from? The people who love them the most want them present.

If you struggle with drinking, please know that your family and friends ABSOLUTELY love you and YOU ARE WORTHY of that love. Drinking is not who you are.

If you feel like I'm talking to you, take out your smart phone and google AA. Besides American Airlines, you will find Alcoholics Anonymous. Just check out their website. Seek out what you feel compelled to seek out, or what you want to avoid. Just start there.

If you think none of this has anything to do with you, I'd still ask you to consider some ideas:

Instead of bringing a bottle of wine as a host/hostess gift, bring flowers or chocolate. We can't know the secret struggles someone else is going through.

Practice having fun without alcohol in your own family gatherings. Who might benefit from your example?

And as with everything, remember that the children are watching.

So, "don't take this the wrong way" and "no offense" (see above disclaimer), but please think about it. All we really want for Christmas (besides world peace and an end to hunger) is to be truly present with our loved ones. That's what wonderful memories are made of, and that is my Christmas wish for all of us.



Keep your eyes on the manger

By Joe Bliss

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is almost here. The holiday season can be such a peaceful and joyful time. It can also be a challenging time, especially for those who are missing loved ones. Whatever our situation in life may be, Christmas is a time of anticipation. Sometimes joyfully so and sometimes anxiously so.

We can rest assured, in all times, that God desires peace in our hearts and joy in our souls. Christmas is the undeniable proof of God's desire for us. Advent is a time when the Church gently encourages us to turn our attention away from ourselves and toward the gift of Christmas – Jesus.

I've often wondered what Jesus was like as a baby. Did His divinity make him an exceptionally good baby? Or did His humanity leave Mary and Joseph massaging their temples late into the night as Jesus wailed and they wondered if they would ever have peace again. Just imagine it, the tiny Prince of Peace driving our sweet Mother Mary completely crazy. What kind of baby was Jesus? We will never know. What we do know is this – Jesus Christ was our gift. He was formed by the very hand of God and given to you and me. Given not only to us but *for* us.

There was an exceptionally beautiful baptism at our church just a few weeks ago. A brand new baby experienced his very first Sacrament. Baptism, like all the Sacraments we are blessed to celebrate, is a beautiful collision of Heaven and Earth. Baptism is a moment in time when Love reaches out to embrace the loved. Through baptism, we die and we rise again. As the apostle Paul so beautifully put it, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." It is a mystery beyond our ability to fully comprehend. The love is simply too great.

As I watched the baptism, I couldn't help but think about my own baptism. While I remember not a thing about it, I've seen the evidence of the gift my entire life. My parents held me while the waters of baptism changed *everything*. When you were baptized, the Author of Life reached out His hands and touched your soul. He knew then what your struggles would be. He knew your strengths, your weaknesses, the paths you would follow. He knew



where you would fall and when you would rise up again. He knew *everything*. He knew it then, and He loved you then. He knows it now, and He loves you now. He knew it on the cross, and He loved you even then. If this season is hard for you, He knows it and He will love you through it. The love of Jesus is as real as it is unimaginable. His love is our hope.

Baptism is a gift to us. The Eucharist is a gift to us. Our Church is a gift to us. But none of the gifts of our faith are possible without that very first one. I believe that is why the Church wants to take us by the hand this Advent season and lead us peacefully toward the manger. The Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, the Good Shepherd, and the King of Kings was once a helpless, tiny baby. He was *the* gift that made faith, hope, and love possible.

This Christmas season, especially if it is a difficult time for you, keep your eyes on that manger. Remember the gift that longs to bring you peace, comfort, and joy. Trust in Jesus and all will be well. Merry Christmas, Holy Spirit Parish!

Believe like Mary
Trust like Joseph
Hope like Shepherds
Seek like Wise Men
Praise like Angels
Love like Jesus



Our Catholic History

The creation of parishes in the Mid-Columbia

Editor's note: This is Part 2 of a two-part series on the histories of parishes in the Mid-Columbia. In the spring issue, we learned about [St. Patrick and St. Joseph Parishes](#). Today, we'll learn about the histories of Christ the King and the former Our Lady of the Rosary Parishes.

By Glenn Hollenberg

The legacy of earlier Catholics in the Mid-Columbia allows us to appreciate how our Catholicism has grown over the years. In earlier issues of Voice of the Spirit, [the origin of our own Holy Spirit Parish 1982](#) was remembered and the [arrival of missionaries in the Mid-Columbia](#) was reviewed. In this issue, we trace the history of two parishes in the Mid-Columbia that responded to the influx of Catholics.

Our Lady of the Rosary or St. Mary, White Bluffs and Hanford

The town of White Bluffs was named for the gleaming cliffs north of the Hanford Reach section of the Columbia River. White Bluffs actually had three different locations;

- **The Port:** In the 1860s the town started as a steamboat port on the east side of the river for miners and goods traveling north to gold fields.
- **The Old Town:** After the 1890s, settlers moved to the west side of the river where land developers bragged that a farmer could get rich with its fertile soil, irrigation water and electric power. But bankruptcy or receivership sometimes became their fate. As early as 1907, Father Frederick, then the pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Prosser, served the needs of Hanford and White Bluffs Catholics as a mission station. A 1909 real estate advertisement not only boasted of “the greatest fruit country on Earth,” but also a “proposed Catholic church” with Father Frederick as pastor. But in reality, Father Frederick had by then moved on to St. Patrick church in Pasco. This dream of a church in Old Town was never built, but it does demonstrate how important land developers thought a house of worship was to potential pioneers considering moving to this harsh and challenging frontier.
- **The Final:** In 1913, the town of White Bluffs moved inland near the newly constructed Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad station and away from the Columbia River. Prior to construction of an actual church in the area, mission stations were established in several residences and in the “Red Brick School-house,” which was halfway between White Bluffs and Hanford townsites.

In 1917, Bishop August Schinner of the newly formed Diocese of Spokane appointed Father Patrick Flavin to be the first resident pastor of White Bluffs. Father Flavin was a quiet, prayerful Irish priest who had previously completed a vast building program in the Dayton/Prescott/Waitsburg area. He is credited with “building” the Our Lady of the Rosary (St. Mary) Catholic church a year later. Most of the original residents remember that this building was formerly the Coddling Fruit Packing Warehouse. In the next two decades, several resident priests would come and go in order to provide for the growing number of Catholics that farmed in this area.



Our Lady of the Rosary Church, circa 1938.

Book Review - By Theresa Barnaby

Waiting For Christ: Meditations for Advent and Christmas by St. John Henry Newman

Advent is one of the hardest times of the year for me to connect with spiritually and liturgically. There's just so much going on. At work, I'm caught up in finishing last minute projects, trying to figure out how to cover our service desks when everyone is asking for time off and writing employee reviews which aren't hard because my staff is awesome, but still takes a lot of time and thought.

In my personal life I'm trying to get gifts purchased, wrapped and (if needed) mailed in time for the December birthdays and holidays because even though I tell myself I'm going to purchase gifts throughout the year, it never happens. There's a ton of baking to do and parties to attend, a house to decorate, and our annual Christmas Eve Open House to prepare for.

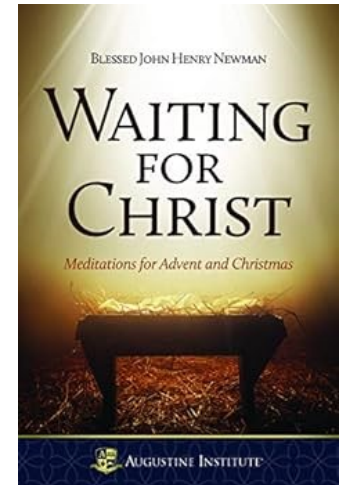
And then there's the Advent/Christmas music that needs to be ready for all the Masses and also the selection of Ordinary Time/Lent music so we can start rehearsing that right after Christmas ends. So, remembering the reason for the season can sometimes feel impossible.

That's where this little meditation book comes in for me. Starting with November 30, this edited collection of excerpts from some of St. John

Henry Newman's Advent and Christmas sermons provides the reader with something to meditate and pray upon each day through Epiphany on January 6.

St. John Henry Newman is one of our more recently canonized saints, being elevated to sainthood in 2019. He was born in 1801 in London and was ordained an Anglican priest in 1825. After some disagreement with the Anglican bishops, he joined the Catholic Church at age 44 and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1846. And in a bit of news released in mid-November the U.S. bishops voted almost unanimously to support a request by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales that Pope Francis name St. John Henry Newman a doctor of the Church.

But back to the book. Each day contains a three- or four-page sermon on a different subject. Reflections include Preparing for the Lord's coming at Christmas, the mystery of Godliness, true joy, and glorifying God in the world among others. It's designed to be used during the Advent and Christmas season, but really could be used throughout the year if you wished. While the sermons have been excerpted and edited down to fit a daily medita-



tion, the language is very scholarly in nature so some entries needed to be re-read once or twice before I could fully understand, but there is a beauty and a richness to this written word that was lovely to be able to reflect upon.

I enjoyed working through this book – even though it was well before Advent, and I think I'll be purchasing my own copy to use every year about this time.

If you're interested in learning more about St. John Henry Newman, there are several good biographies to look at including *John Henry Newman: a biography* by Ian Ker and his own autobiography *Apolo-
gia Pro Vita Sua*, which is part autobiography and part exploration of the nature of Christianity and its place in the modern age.

Voice of the Spirit volunteer editors: Dieter Bohrmann and Erica Hohl. Special thanks to contributors for this issue: Marjie Sloon, Cindy Ellis, Joe Bliss, Linda Garner, Theresa Barnaby, Robin Rego, Linda Rego, Carlos Leon, Judy Cleary, Glenn Hollenberg, Bernie Ip, Shelly Bohrmann, Philline Go, Pat Gardner, and Debbie Forgette. The Voice of the Spirit is published each spring and fall and distributed to parishioners. The newsletter is also available on Holy Spirit's website, <https://holyspiritkennewick.org>. Articles, photos and story ideas are always welcome! If you would like to help, please contact Dieter at 509-987-3158 or dgbohrmann@gmail.com.



Middle East conflict hits close to home

By Cindy Ellis

There have been many conflicts in the Middle East in my lifetime, but none have affected me as much as the terrorist attack in Israel on October 7 that ignited another tragic saga. I suppose this is due to my pilgrimage to the Holy Land early this year where our group was greeted at the airport in Jerusalem with a “Welcome Home” sign by our guide; and by my heightened global awareness since that trip, especially for Israel.

I learned much about this beautiful country, the diverse people who call Israel home – Jewish, Christian and Muslim. We visited the Golan Heights, a Jewish commune, Kibbutz Ginosar, in northern Israel. We heard the Muslim call for prayer from beautiful Muslim mosques. We visited the Wailing Wall in the Jewish quarter of Old Jerusalem as well as numerous Catholic cathedrals and churches throughout the country. We also visited with Christians in Palestinian-held Bethlehem where the numbers of Christians have been steadily dwindling. Many places we visited in February are now in the news as locations where rockets were fired at from across the borders or people were killed or injured.

Our tour guide, Hussam, is a Catholic Christian and our bus driver, Essam, is Muslim. They had obviously worked together before and totally trusted and respected one another. Essam was a stellar driver and got us to every destination safely and on time. Hussam gave us historical, demographic, and religious backgrounds of every location we visited. This is a cross-section of all of Israel – living together.

We traveled north to the Lebanese border and to the Golan Heights, bordering Syria. We were also in the West Bank region of Israel on the way to Jerusalem. Early in the recent war, a man was killed in Abu Gosh, which is west of Jerusalem. We visited Abu Gosh on the last day of our pilgrimage on our way to Jaffa/Tel Aviv.

I reached out to Hussam initially to make sure he and his family were safe. They were at the time. However, rocket barrages are commonplace now, so safety is a daily concern. Also, the tourist industry which is so vital to Israel is gone completely.

I am sickened to see mainstream media calling Hamas a militant group and quoting celebrities who call Hezbollah “very smart”. These are terrorists on a scale that we cannot fathom – not even in this post-9/11 era.

I guess what I am trying to say is that Israel is no longer just a country in the Middle East to me. It is home to many of my brothers and sisters who are now in harm’s way. We are all God’s children, and my heart is breaking for all caught up in this war.

I pray that this war ends quickly, and relative stability is restored to the region. Please continue to pray for all of Israel including the people in the Palestinian sectors (Gaza, West Bank) as many are simply trying to live their lives and are not a part of the Hamas regime.

- *Shalom aleichem (Peace be unto you)*



A Holy Land pilgrimage early this year included a visit to the Golan Heights, an area on the Israeli-Syrian border near the Sea of Galilee.

*Photo courtesy
Cindy Ellis*

Reigniting our Catholic community

Annual event aims to set 'Faith on Fire'

By Judy Cleary

This past summer I had the opportunity to attend a Faith on Fire weekend at St. Mary Catholic Church in Anacortes. Faith on Fire is a signature Catholic event of the Pacific Northwest. It is a spiritually transformative celebration of our Catholic faith, fellowship and vocations. It supports Pope St. John Paul II's call to a new evangelization.

The event included a time for confession, adoration, and prayer. There was also an evening healing service and separate sessions just for youth. People came from throughout Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. Some camped out on the parish grounds. Meals were served, so there was opportunity for fellowship.

The theme this year was *Living for God*. The keynote speaker was Sarah Swafford, founder of Emotional Virtue Ministries. She speaks internationally on a variety of topics including faith, relationships and interior confidence. One of her talks was on *Emotional Virtue for a Drama Free Life* and what it means to live out our Catholic faith daily. Another was on *Gift and Grit: How Heroic Virtue Can Change Your Life*.

Sarah was very engaging, and she captured the audience with her wit, humor and endless energy. She spoke about what it's like for young people in today's world, contrasting the enormous differences in the world from their parents' and grandparents' day. Young people today have much bigger challenges for their faith

than their parents and grandparents did. She focused on the importance of prayer and the three things we should all do each day: Say the Morning Offering, think about how your day is going, and leave the past to God's mercy.

The guest speakers were the Finkbonner family, who are part of the Seattle Archdiocese and have strong ties to the Native American community. As a young child, Jake Finkbonner was dying from a rare and sudden flesh-eating disease when he was miraculously healed after a relic of (then Blessed, now Saint) Kateri Tekakwitha was placed on him and prayed over by Sister Kateri Mitchell. This miracle led to Kateri Tekakwitha's canonization in 2012.

The family's conversations about what happened to Jake were

fascinating. Jake spoke about his personal encounter with the healing and what he would do with his life now. His parents also talked about their experience and how it affected them. When they thought he was dying, they put him in God's hands, "Thy will be done". They never stopped praying. Bishop Joseph Tyson concelebrated Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's Canonization Mass in Rome in October 2012, and Jake and his family were there for the special occasion at St. Peter's Basilica.

Father Justin Ryan, director of Vocations, and Father Tyler Johnson, associate director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Seattle, both spoke on the importance of fostering vocations in our families, parishes and schools, and they met with the teen boys.



Attendees of the Faith on Fire conference celebrate Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church in Anacortes.

Photo courtesy Judy Cleary

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Why I'm a Knight

By Robin Rego

My wife, Linda, and I moved here from Tacoma and happily joined Holy Spirit parish nearly 10 years ago. I was also looking for a One Stop Shop – one where I could find a practical and proven way to do some of the Corporal Works of Mercy and also grow my relationship with the good Lord – a balance of Martha and Mary. I was looking for a group of faith-filled, happy people, who pray and do good together and have fun in the process.

I found it here with the Knights of Columbus.

Just what do we do? My two-second elevator speech – we save lives, and we change lives.

But who are the Knights of Columbus? We are an international order of Catholic men who lead with faith, preserve life, protect families, serve the downtrodden, and defend Christian values in a busy, fast changing world. We serve others through the Corporal Works of Mercy – feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, shelter the homeless, and visit those in prison, nursing homes and hospitals. We invest our time, our effort, and our resources into our values: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

In 1882, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, beatified in October 2020, started the Knights of Columbus to uplift his own parish in New Haven, Connecticut. It first began as a Mutual Aid and Fraternal Insurance organization for immigrants and their families, and in particular for widows and orphans. It is now the world's largest Catholic

fraternal organization, numbering almost 2 million men. In the state of Washington alone, there are 17,500 Knights, including 172 in our parish.

In past years, before Covid-19, our Holy Spirit Council, with various fundraisers and your support, donated over \$25,000 each year for our parish and community needs like Food for Families, Catholic education and seminarian support, maternity and pregnancy financial assistance at Hope Medical, Catholic Family and Child Service and assisting the sick and disabled, protecting those who cannot protect themselves, whether they are next door or halfway around the world.

We put in about 7,000 volunteer hours to help our parish ministries and those in our community through the food bank, KC HELP (Hospital Equipment Lend Program), Special Olympics and jail ministry programs.

We Knights are everyday people, helping people every day. We welcome and value Catholic men who seek to help out in the community and put their faith in action. Your time commitment is really up to you. What we have found is just an hour here or there can make a big difference to people in need. And what you will find when you serve others is true lasting joy – that is what we are all seeking in this busy world of ours.

We are Catholic men, building a bridge back to faith. This is the journey we are on. There is much work to be done in this world. And that is just what the Knights do every day. We do it to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and Catholics. We come from many



Robin Rego, right, presents a donation from the Knights of Columbus to the Tri-Cities Food Bank. "Feeding the hungry" is just one of the corporal works of mercy supported by the Knights at Holy Spirit.

Photo courtesy Robin Rego

places, backgrounds, and stages in our lives. But we are all of one faith. A fraternity of men striving to better ourselves and our world.

It's one thing to say who you are. It's another to live it; to put your values into action. When there is a need, the word goes out, "Call in the Knights," and we respond.

That's what we do at the Knights of Columbus – that's who we are.



We are all called to serve

By Linda Rego

On Veterans Day this year I received texts and emails from my son, stepdaughter, granddaughter and several friends sending me good wishes for Veterans Day. All of these people are also veterans, and we are kindred spirits having experienced something quite profound in various military services.

I am blessed to have been able to serve my country, albeit in a small way, and I do enjoy the verbal salutations on Veterans Day, which bring back warm and grateful memories.

Still, for me, it is not much of a stretch to say that Veterans Day greetings could be passed on to Christian believers as well, whether or not they served in one of the U.S. military branches. After all, aren't we all soldiers on earth, people of faith, part of the Church Militant, fighting for our place in heaven?

So next November 11 when you hear someone say "Happy Veterans Day," remember you are a veteran too. Onward Christian Soldiers!



Adoration-inspired Haikus

*How should I worship
With honor and praise always
Jesus on my lips*

*Coming and Going
Stopping in to say Hello
Holy Adoration*

*A simple table
Dressed and blessed - candles flicker
Prepared for Jesus*

*His body exposed
Kneeling, Loving, Seeking Him
Holy Adoration*

*Shouts of Joy and Praise!
Hosanna in the highest!
Holy is His Name!*

*Where can I find peace
In His word trusting His love;
Hold on to the cross!*

*Candles brightly glow
Flames giving glory to God
Praising Him Always*



Garden of the Holy Spirit

(Continued from page 1)

cese would sell the property? Who would care for those interred in that parish? (This has actually happened).

Looking for other alternatives the committee visited cemeteries in Kennewick and Richland. Both cemeteries offered space but Sunset Gardens' proposal included a space dedicated and laid out in a garden with trees, shrubs and a walkway for a beautiful setting. So after a casual inquiry of many parishioners we settled on Sunset Gardens' proposal.

The committee has had extensive negotiations and have been able to obtain a great price for a Columbarium's 24 niches and 20 plots to begin, with an opportunity to purchase more at the same price within 36 months of the signing of the contract. The contract was reviewed by the Diocese's attorney and ultimately signed by Bishop Tyson.

Since that time, the parish has offered both niches and plots for sale through special meetings and in the church office. These are offered at a discounted price to parishioners.

Available for purchase are niches (for cremation urns) or plots (for either caskets or cremation urns). The price of a plot is \$1,300. Niches vary in price from \$2,200 to \$2,800 and will accept two urns. The church has now purchased the second half of the first Columbarium, which adds 23 more niches available for purchase. In the future we will be able to add more plots and a second Columbarium for the Garden.

What are the advantages to planning a burial? Many people have said that prior planning is a great blessing for the family of the bereaved. Consider prior planning as a gift to your family!

Future plans are to add a monument designating the area as our Holy Spirit Parish Garden. In addition, there is an opportunity to add a large memorial statue in the Garden (with the approval of Sunset Gardens) if someone or a group is interested in donating.

If you are interested, you can purchase a niche or plot through the church office. If you have questions, please contact Linda Garner at 509-378-0022 or 509-627-2748 or Jim Carey at 509-627-0321.

'Faith on Fire'

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Two Sisters of Mercy, and two Benedictine Sisters from Shaw Island also spoke to the teen girls on vocations. This was a great opportunity to educate our youth on the worth of vocations to the single, married and religious life.

There was an optional "Sacred Art Campus Tour" of St. Mary's Catholic Church, which was very interesting. There are many beautiful statues and art in the church. The beautiful Stations of the Cross are of handmade tiles from Italy. Most impressive for me were the Four Pillars of the Evangelists, done in bronze. These are just a few of the highlights of this inspiring tour.

There will be another opportunity to attend Faith on Fire next year. The date has not been set yet but stay tuned. It is worth it! Learn more at faithonfire@stmaryanacortes.org.



The annual Faith on Fire weekend is held on the beautiful grounds of St. Mary Catholic Church in Anacortes, Washington.

Photo courtesy Judy Cleary

Buen Camino

(Continued from page 2)

them at various shrines along the way.

If the 500 miles were not challenging enough, the terrain made it more so. On the Camino, there are more difficult days and less difficult days, but none are easy. I did get stronger as time went on, and the bonds of friendships helped to overcome many physical and mental obstacles. My ability to speak Spanish enabled me to make many friends of native Spaniards and many from other countries.

When I finally reached the finish line, the entrance to Santiago and the square at the cathedral with a group of 13 friends was overwhelming. Tears flowed as three years worth of grief and love poured out in the arms of many of those friends. We celebrated, we went to the pilgrim's mass, and enjoyed a meal and friendships for the last time. Goodbyes were tough.

Many friends are happy for me and have congratulated me for completing such a difficult journey. I tell them it was the hardest thing I've ever done and the best thing I've ever done (except for getting married and witnessing five births).

I made it to the end of the world and saying goodbye to the shell and all it held and meant was tougher. But I did it and cried until I saw joy in the sky and felt comfort from the waves.

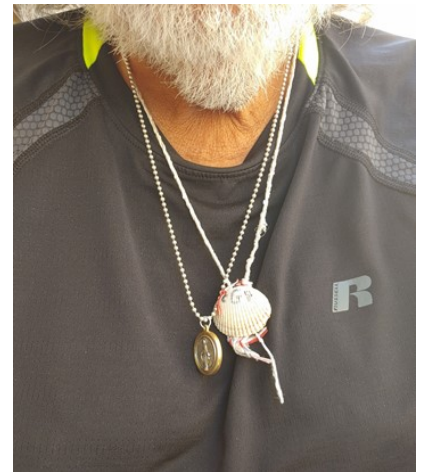
There are a couple other highlights of this epic journey that I would like to share with readers.

I went by myself and got to St. Jean with my only agenda to start the pilgrimage the next day. Most days I walked alone where the hot

plain called the *meseta* had long stretches of trail where no one else could be seen in front or behind you. You would see new friends throughout the day in rest areas or roadside cafes. Each destination had multiple albergues, and we would stay in different ones and so new friends were always being made and you would reconnect with the old friends a few days later. Friendships and accommodations were very fluid and men and women would stay together in the same room. Rooms would hold anywhere from 25 beds to 150 in larger cities.

The other thing is to expound on the spirituality of the Camino. It is all around you. It is not just churches or shrines, it is people that you may only see once, a fountain that refreshes (there was even a wine fountain), a roadside cafe, a shade tree, picking wild blackberries, finding a guitar to play, but mostly it was reaching your day's destination and thanking God for making it and to bless the time eating, drinking, cleaning up, resting, writing, talking and praying. The bonds formed in doing all those things was priceless.

So that brings me to the last day before getting into Santiago. By day 33 I had gotten into a group of mostly young people in their twenties but somehow accommodated a couple of 70-year-olds into the group. There were 13 of us, and we all decided to stay together in the same albergue. We were a crew of German, French, Italian, American, Spanish, Australian, and Irish. None of us knew each other when we started and we all started alone. Now I have lifelong friends. God owns the Camino as I mentioned earlier. It was a good walk because we have a good God.



The author wore a small clam shell – the symbol of a pelegrino, or pilgrim – around his neck throughout the journey in memory of his late wife, Peggy.



The author takes a break at one of the many roadside cafes on the Camino de Santiago.

Photos courtesy Carlos León

If you want to know more, let's have coffee or a glass of wine sometime. I like getting reacquainted or meeting someone new. I'm not hard to find. I frequently go to daily Mass.

In the words of pelegrinos along The Way, I wish you all "Buen Camino."

Sacraments

*Sacred, visible signs of God's loving grace and presence to humanity.
Sacraments manifest the faith of the Christian community on Earth.*

Baptisms

We welcome the following who were baptized into the
Holy Spirit Parish Catholic Community from
May 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023

Clark Jacob Hardman
Emma Marie Swenson
Luke Alan Swenson
Karol Grace Weis
Matthias Ismael Gutierrez
Dahlia Adina Suarez Marks
Noah Samuel Suarez Marks
Declan Theo Leistriz
Raelynn Aileen Rivera
Wilhelmina Josephine Adams
John Joseph Wilder May



Deaths

May 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023
Please pray for the souls of our deceased parishioners.
May they rest in peace.

Donald Joseph Hart
Kerry Rae St. Denis
Ella Sears
Dorothy Sanchez
Lewis Allen Hackney
Claudette Harrer



WARM FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Holy Spirit Knights and a team of volunteers recently delivered 32 cases of new coats to Catholic Charities locations in Kennewick and Richland for the annual Coats for Kids event. The goal of the Coats for Kids program is to ensure that no child in North America goes without a coat during the winter season. Through the dedication of councils across the United States and Canada, hundreds of thousands of new winter coats have been distributed to children since the program's inception.

Photo courtesy Ken Ellis



HOLY SPIRIT CHARITABLE DONATIONS TITHING PROGRAM

MAY 1, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023



Local Charities (from tithing)

St. Joseph School	\$13,200.00
Holy Spirit Conference of St. Vincent de Paul	1,800.00
Tri-Cities Food Bank	1,800.00
Prepares	1,800.00
Hope Medical of WA	1,800.00
Holy Spirit Youth Group	2,927.49
B5	791.90
Mirror Ministries	791.90
World Relief Tri-Cities	500.00

Out of Our Area Charities (from tithing)

3W Medical for Women	500.00
Catholic Charities Hawaii	1,000.00
Catholic Relief Services	1,958.25
CNEWA	1,179.74
Doctors Without Borders USA	1,958.25
Focus (Jeremiah Nguyen)	2,900.00
Focus (Jackie Gazewood)	300.00
Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation	1,000.00
Knights of Columbus Charities	2,677.59
Mater et Decor Carmeli Monastery	2,500.00
Mercy Ships	500.00
Sisters of Life	500.00
UNBOUND	791.90
Tri-Cities Union Gospel Mission	2,000.00

Total (Local and Out of Area): \$45,177.02

Special Collections:

Catholic Communication Campaign	100.00
Prepares (Statewide)	330.00
Operation Rice Bowl	1403.40
Catholic Home Missions	1366.87
Good Friday	350.00
Priest Retirement & Seminarian Educ.	11,770.00
Peter's Pence	2,358.87
Catholic Human Development	2,299.12
Black and Indian Missions	838.87
National Collection—Retired Religious	2,381.87
World Mission Sunday	1,148.86

Total (Special Collections) \$24,347.86

Disbursements from Holy Spirit Conference of St. Vincent de Paul

April 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

*The Mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:
"A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values,
growing in holiness and building a more just world
through personal relationships with and service to
people in need."*

Total number of calls to the helpline: **338**

Total number of households helped financially: **98**

Total disbursement to the needy who contacted
Holy Spirit Conference of St. Vincent de Paul for
help: **\$17,129.28**

Administrative costs: **\$681.29**

Larger disbursements:

Electrical	\$5,812
Gas	\$3,995
Rent	\$2,678
Food	\$1,525

Parishioner contributions: **\$18,307.46**

Thank you, parishioners, for your time, talent, and
treasury support of our Society of St. Vincent de
Paul Holy Spirit Kennewick Conference.



*Holy Spirit's Troubles B
Gone singing group
brought Christmas cheer
to revelers at the annual
Hometown Holiday
parade in downtown
Kennewick.*

*Photos courtesy
Bernie Ip*

The creation of parishes in the Mid-Columbia

(Continued from page 5)

Christ the King, Richland

In 1942, Lt. Col. Franklin Matthias of the U.S. Army was tasked with finding the perfect location for a top-secret project as part of the effort to build an atomic bomb. The location had to: 1) be at least 100 miles from any population center, 2) be supplied with electricity and 3) have sufficient water. When he flew over Rattlesnake Mountain and landed at the Pasco Naval Air Station, he called back to General Groves to tell him that he had found the place. Several weeks later, the federal government took possession of all the property in the Hanford Engineering Works, including Our Lady of the Rosary church and the farms of the Catholic pioneers that had settled in White Bluffs and Hanford.

About that same time, Bishop Charles White of the Spokane Diocese sent Father William Sweeney to St. Joseph parish in Kennewick, which only had about 70 parishioners. He also held Mass in Richland (population 300) at schools, the Grange Hall, a Quonset hut and even the Methodist Church. Father Sweeney had no idea of what was to come. In July 1943, Father Sweeney was given a security clearance/badge and started holding Mass for the influx of Hanford workers at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, in addition to his duties at St. Joseph parish.

As the workforce increased to 45,000, a large circus tent was erected in October 1943 by the army at the Hanford town site with a capacity of 1,500. This tent served as a theater during the week and a church on Sunday mornings. Msgr. Sweeney remembered the last Mass in the tent held in February 1945, because as he stood at the altar, rainwater was dripping on the bald spot on his head.

After World War II, access to the Hanford Site became more restricted. At that time Richland became a government built-and-owned bedroom community of about 16,000 workers and their families who supported plutonium production at Hanford.



Christ the King Church in Richland, circa 1945

Two government-issued, “stick built” churches with almost identical footprints were constructed in Richland during 1944 at the direction of Col. Matthais. One of the structures was allocated to Central United Protestant. Across Stevens Drive, the other building would become Christ the King Parish.

The first Mass was held on Christmas Eve 1944. This mission church was still serviced by the St. Joseph parish, but became a self-sustaining parish of its own in 1946 with Father Sweeney as resident priest. The church and land were rented from the Army until 1954, when Christ the King Parish was permitted to purchase this 11-acre site from the government. This allowed building projects, like the school, to be taken on. Msgr. Sweeney continued to serve as pastor until his retirement in 1978. In 1980 the original church pictured was torn down to allow construction of the present Christ the King church. These two parishes were established for Catholics coming to the Mid-Columbia with a promise of a new life whether they were enticed because of railroads and irrigation or a top-secret war effort. The bishops of the Spokane Diocese responded to this growth by pushing priests (Flavin and Sweeney) to start new parishes to serve these pioneers and workers.



VOICE OF THE SPIRIT

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(509) 735-8558

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Upcoming Events

December 24, 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Masses
December 25, 9:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass
January 1, 9:00 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day) Mass
January 6, 4:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass for Feast of the Epiphany
January 7, 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.	Feast of the Epiphany Masses
February 14	Ash Wednesday
March 31	Easter Sunday
April 21, 5:00 p.m.	Confirmation

Voice of the Spirit is online!

Can't get enough of the Parish newsletter? An archive of issues dating back more than 10 years is available on Holy Spirit's website. Visit <https://holyspiritkennewick.org> and look for the Voice of the Spirit link under the "Parish Life" tab.

The newsletter is published each spring and fall and distributed to parishioners via mail and Flock-notes. Content submissions and story ideas are accepted year-round, and volunteer writers are always welcome!

For more information about the newsletter or questions on how to submit an article, please call, text, or email Dieter Bohrmann at 509-987-3158 or dgbohrmann@gmail.com.