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JANUARY 2021 *Letter*

Make This Lenten Season A 'Journey of Enlightenment' In A Dark Time

By Christine Corbett Conklin

At a time when there is so much darkness in the world, the upcoming season of Lent can be a journey of "enlightenment," suggests Very Rev. Michael Ibach, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Yakima and parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish.

This ancient period of preparation for Easter, which this year falls between February 17 and April 4, "is not meant to be a discouraging time. It's meant to be a time of enlightenment," a time to reflect upon "how we can make an improvement in our relationship with God and our relationship with others," he said in an interview with the *Central Washington Catholic*.

Despite the need to follow coronavirus regulations, such as wearing masks, observing social distancing and making reservations to attend Mass and other liturgical rites, most of the traditions of Lent will continue this year in the Diocese of Yakima, Father Ibach observed. That includes abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday (February 17) and Good Friday (April 2) for those between the ages of 14 and 59 who do not have special health or work restrictions which make this unwise. Those between the ages of seven and 59 also are required to abstain from meat on all Fridays of Lent, with the same compassionate considerations.

Liturgical celebrations are expected to



be held in some form, including celebration of the Triduum – the three days spanning the evening of Holy Thursday through Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter – although parishioners should check their local parish schedule for details. There will be some differences this year, such as a general prayer on Ash Wednesday followed by a sprinkling of a tiny amount of ashes over each person's head, as opposed to the tradition of an individual prayer and application of a cross of ashes on each person's forehead, Father Ibach said. You may also notice an absence of a holy water font into which you can dip your fingers, as well as a change from immersion to pouring water over the heads of those being baptized.

However, these changes should not detract from the spirit of the season, the opportunity to "take stock of who we are, where our faults and failings are, so that we can become better people, become

more like Christ," he said.

Observation of Lent is an age-old custom in the Catholic Church, dating back to perhaps the second century. Then, more people began to enter the Church and the season before Easter became a "preparation period for them, of knowing the Faith, and of reflection," Father Ibach said. By the mid-400s, under Pope Leo I, Lenten practices became more formalized.

Today, in these difficult times, it's important to seek the beauty of this season. Not only is this a time to "turn away from sin and embrace a relationship with God," but also to reach out and become more helpful to others, he said.

"The Church is saying, 'Be more proactive, reach out,'" Father Ibach said. During Lent, many people think of making a sacrifice such as giving up chocolate. However, also consider turning your sacrifices into positive actions, he suggested. If you spend a lot of time watching TV, for example, give up an hour of TV and use that time to call someone who lives alone or to volunteer at a food bank. Skip or simplify a meal and give the money you save to the annual Rice Bowl collection. Just go to church and pray.

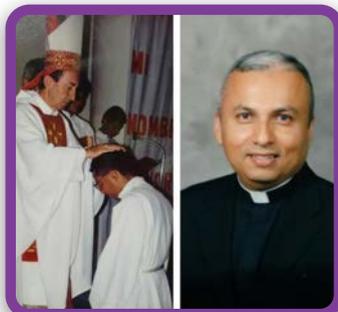
"The whole principle of charity is a part of Lent," he concluded. "Share the blessings God has given you with those who don't have what you have."

Father Jorge Granados: His Vocation Remains Strong After 25 Years

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As Father Jorge Granados Lopez prepares this month to mark the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, he says he has come to have a special appreciation for the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

As the Blessed Virgin presented her Child, "to give Him to us to love," so Father Granados' ordination represented his own Mother's



Father Jorge Granados has vivid memories of his ordination day in 1996. Today, his vocation remains strong.

"presentation" of him to service in the Catholic Church, he believes. Today, as parochial vicar of Queen of All Saints Church in Warden and St. Michael the Archangel Church in Royal City, he says that the priesthood is "my call. This is where I should be forever."

A native of Colombia, Father Granados was ordained for the Diocese of Caldas, Antioquia, where he served for two years. Even though he was born the "middle child," with 11 siblings,

his Mother cried when he left Colombia to come to the Diocese of Yakima, he recalled. To this day, when he returns to Colombia for an annual visit, she cries each time he leaves, reinforcing the image of the Blessed Virgin and the sacrifice she made in presenting her Child for the world, he said.

When Father Granados calls his Mother each day, she begins the conversation with, "How is my pastor? How is my holy blessing and my minister?"

Indeed, Father Granados, 52, has been a "holy blessing" for our Diocese,

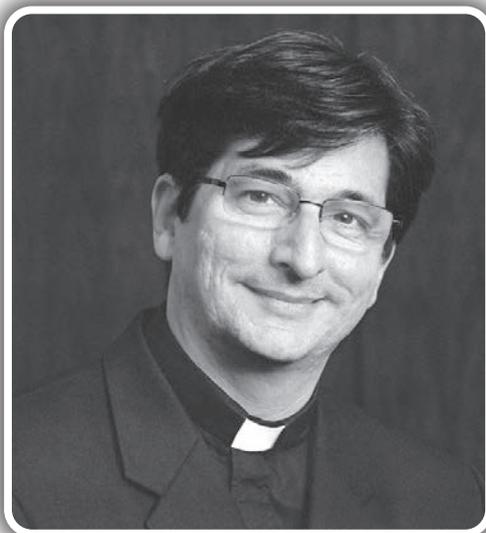
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A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

I hope you can all join in our annual Mass for Life this coming Sunday, January 31, at St. Paul Cathedral: either online on the parish or Diocese Facebook page, or in person following our COVID-19 safety protocols. Our team from Catholic Charities as well as many of our PREPARES volunteers will be present as well. This event leads straight into our first-ever statewide collection on Valentines' Day, Sunday February 14. PREPARES walks the journey of life with moms, their children and even their families from the child's first moment of conception to the fifth birthday. Lives are changed. Not only for the mom and her unborn child. But for volunteers who often become long-term friends of those they accompany. PREPARES is building a culture of life now, even as we hope for a change in favor of life and against abortion. I hope you will join us for Mass, and I hope you will consider a generous gift to this PREPARES ministry.

Of course, how could we have Mass without the generosity of our priests? Our issue this month for the *Central Washington Catholic* uplifts one of our priests, from Colombia, who is celebrating a landmark ordination anniversary. Fr. Jorge Granados celebrates 25 years of priestly service on January 27. (Next month, we will highlight Monsignor Mario A. Salazar who celebrates 60



Bishop Joseph Tyson

years of priestly ministry on February 11.) Fr. Granados currently blesses Grant County with his pastoral care but has had long years of service across the Diocese of Yakima. I hope you will join me in congratulating him and remembering him in your prayers.

I also hope you will read the story on the diaconal ordination of seminarian Eduardo "Lalo" Chávez and visit the Diocese of Yakima website to see the photos we have posted. He was just ordained to the transitional diaconate for the Diocese of Yakima at the Seminario Hispano in Mexico City. Our Facebook page also has a number of postings about the particular mission of this seminary. It forms men to serve in

the United States and Canada. We hope to have Deacon Lalo back in the United States this spring serving in one of our parishes as he prepares for priestly ordination later this year.

I am also grateful for the insights that Fr. Michael Ibach shares in this issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* as we prepare for Lent. We are still in a difficult phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. But God wants life for us, and life in abundance. Indeed, the very word "Lent" derives from the old English root word "to lengthen." The days grow longer. The first signs of spring break open on the trees. Daffodils begin to poke open. Life is stretching, growing and opening to the sun. How much more the case for us spiritually as we engage in the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Lent points us to the gift of life. The life of the unborn. The life that is the Eucharist. The life that is in the rhythm of Church liturgy. My hope and prayer for all of you is that in the midst of the pandemic you may draw closer to a good and gracious God in ways that will give life to you!

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

PREPARES Continues Outreach Efforts, in Moses Lake

Small rural towns have been especially hard hit this season, but PREPARES volunteers are pulling together throughout the Diocese. The Moses Lake PREPARES play group has not been able to meet since the beginning of COVID-19 closures. Volunteers can no longer get together with families. However, volunteers have adapted to the needs of their community, and continue to serve families as they can. With the support of the parish, and



donations from the wider community, the ministry is flourishing in Moses Lake.

The parish of Our Lady of Fatima provides a place to store donations – and a key! Volunteers deliver bags to doorsteps, and make calls to check on families.

The Moses Lake PREPARES team has been there for a single mother who is expecting a child in the next month, a family whose house burned down, a loving father who has not been able to work since he was injured, a mother who has taken in two kids with disabilities from the foster care system, a grandmother

who takes care of her grandchildren due to her daughter's substance abuse. Moses Lake PREPARES is there for families in their community.

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Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson

MODERATOR

Monsignor Robert M. Siler

EDITOR

Christine Corbett Conklin

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Email: robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org

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

PREPARES Collection Is Planned for Valentine's Weekend

On the weekend of February 13-14, we will have a special collection for PREPARES, as part of a statewide effort to assist this Catholic ministry.

PREPARES is an initiative of the Washington State bishops, designed to reach out to low-income mothers and their children from conception through the age of five, offering support.

Your parish will have collection envelopes and fliers explaining more about

the program. For additional information, contact Daisy Perez, bilingual administrative assistant, at (509) 965-7117 or daisy.perez@yakimadiocese.net. You may also contact Leanne LaBissoniere, parish outreach coordinator of Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, at (509) 367-5291.

"Your PREPARES gift, no matter the amount, is deeply appreciated and will help ensure that these critical services

continue to thrive and expand in parishes in your region and all across the state of Washington," said Bishop Joseph Tyson.

"From my own heart, I extend the kindness of prayer that you and your family are abundantly blessed and that all those in the sacred care of PREPARES will be renewed by our loving mission of compassion."

Thank you for your efforts regarding this upcoming collection.

Learn How To Address Issues of Addictions, Drugs and Pornography

Parishioners from throughout our Diocese are invited to join a free February 15 Zoom presentation on "The Challenges of Addictions, Drugs and Pornography," by Fernando A. Ortiz, Ph.D.

This session will be offered as part of the annual Bishop-Priest-Deacon Day, including a presentation in English from 10:30 a.m. - noon and a session in Spanish from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Ortiz will draw on research and

his clinical work to help participants better understand the challenges of these issues.

Priests, deacons and parish leaders will then continue with a closed session. Dr. Ortiz and Bishop Tyson will offer reflections on how to address these topics in the personal lives of parish leaders, and how to respond to the needs of parishioners in ministry settings.

Dr. Ortiz is the Director of Counseling

Services at Gonzaga University and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Washington, Department of Psychiatry.

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83209247129>;

Meeting ID: 832 0924 7129; One tap mobile: +12532158782,,83209247129# US (Tacoma),

+16699009128,,83209247129# US (San Jose).

Father Jorge Granados: His Vocation Remains Strong After 25 Years *Continued from page 1*

beginning with residence in Quincy and Toppenish while he studied English at Heritage University, followed by a short time in Wapato. He also has served as pastor of Resurrection Parish in Zillah; associate pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake, St. Joseph Parish

in Kennewick and Holy Family Parish in Yakima. He went on to become pastor of St. Juan Diego Parish in Cowiche and Our Lady of the Desert Parish in Mattawa. In more recent years, Father Granados has served as parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Parish in Toppenish and Our

following only three months of English instruction.

"That was the moment the Bishop almost killed me," he remembered with a laugh. "I could not sleep" (due to nervousness).

However, through the years, "the warmth and love (with which) people received him" has brought Father much joy, he said. He has particularly enjoyed preaching to the people of all of the parishes to which he has been assigned. In 25 years, his vocation has never grown old, he adds.

"When I go to the altar, I'm like the new ordained priest," he said. "Any time I am up there, it's like my first Mass after my ordination."

Although a celebration of Father Granados' anniversary will need to wait, due to COVID-19 regulations, please keep him and all of our clergy and religious in your prayers.



Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education in the Diocese of Yakima. Because of supporters like you, we raised over **\$305,000** in our *40 Ways in 40 Days to Celebrate our Faith* Campaign.

The money raised goes to support our Tuition Assistance Program, college scholarships, Formed.org, Parish Religious Education Programs, and other ministries.

To learn more about the Foundation, visit:
<https://cwatholicfoundation.org/>

Lady of Fatima in Moses Lake, before assuming his current responsibilities. Father Granados admits that it was difficult at first to celebrate Mass in English, like the time former Bishop of Yakima Carlos Sevilla, S.J., asked him to say Mass in Mattawa,



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Bishop Tyson Ordains Deacon Lalo Chávez a Transitional Deacon in Mexico City—

By Daisy Pérez

In a ceremony livestreamed to the Diocese of Yakima January 16 amidst COVID-19 restrictions, Bishop Joseph Tyson ordained Yakima seminarian Eduardo “Lalo” Chávez Puente a deacon as he continues to prepare for priestly ordination later this year.

“In a few short moments, I will hand you the Book of the Gospels and speak these words: ‘Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach,’” Bishop Tyson said in his homily, broadcast from the chapel at the Seminario Hispano in Mexico City, where Deacon Chávez has done most of his studies.

“What might these words mean for you, Lalo? They mean that you are herald of the Gospel. You share the joy of the Gospel. You give your life for those you serve. You break open the life of Christ in the lives of the faithful,” Bishop Tyson added. His homily focused on the story from the Acts of the Apostles of Saint Philip teaching and then baptizing the Ethiopian court official, who was reading from the Book of



Bishop Joseph Tyson ordained the new transitional deacon for our Diocese.

the Prophet Isaiah when they met on the road.

Deacon Chávez was due to be ordained deacon last summer in Canada, where he also has spent time studying and doing pastoral work. Because of flight restrictions and border closures, the ordination was postponed. Assuming all immigration issues are resolved in the coming months, he will be ordained to the priesthood in May in the Diocese.

“...I want to serve the Church and the people,” Chávez said. “First as a deacon, then as a priest.”

He has been in formation for almost eight years; he spent his first four years of formation with the Archdiocese of New York, then transferred to the Diocese of Yakima.

Priesthood was not the path he first had envisioned for himself. It wasn’t until his father was on the verge of dying that he was able to get close to the church.

“When I was approached about the idea of becoming a priest, my thought was no!” Chávez said. “I didn’t feel adequate of becoming a priest.”

When he attended a discernment retreat, he felt that he could be involved in church, but still hadn’t thought about becoming a priest. He worked with a group

of people who preached and held Bible studies. It was during this time that the spark to the priesthood was lighted.

“A woman was crying because she wanted to confess and thought that a priest was amongst our group, but he was unavailable,” Chávez said. “I had always thought about being a religious brother, but I got the sudden urge to become a priest and bring peace to this woman who sought reconciliation.”

Chávez found that his journey would perhaps be more difficult than those of other seminarians. He dropped out of school at the young age of 13 but was able to receive his GED.

“The first three years of philosophy were difficult, I felt like I couldn’t keep up with the work and the level of work they wanted from me,” Chávez said. “I had doubts about not being good enough to become a priest, but I laid my doubts and worries in His hands.”

His studies at Seminario Hispano, which focuses on preparing men to be missionaries to the United States, includes eight to 10 classes per semester, and he is involved in Mass and other religious services.

“Being with people and having a strong human connection, especially during this difficult time with the pandemic, has confirmed to me that this is what I’m meant to do,” Chávez said. “I have now become a deacon and will become a priest in His time. Everything I’ve ever done has been in His time.”

Peaceful Pro-Life Rallies Call Attention to the Value of Human Life

Although the coronavirus interfered with pro-life events for some areas of the Diocese this January, other communities went ahead with annual plans.

Groups in the Tri-Cities and Wenatchee gathered to peacefully mark the anniversary of the January 22, 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion across the nation.

The Edward and Catherine Carroll Chapter of Students for Life led a pro-life rally in Richland on January 18, also collecting baby items such as diapers and baby wipes for pro-life centers in the Tri-Cities.

“We had about 150 people come, and it was calm,” observed Elijah Burris, chapter president. “We had a ton of donations for Hope Medical and YouMedical, which was great ...”

In Wenatchee, about 200 people gathered near the steps of the Chelan



Students encouraged respect for life at a January 18 gathering in Richland. Many baby items were donated that day, filling cars and warming hearts.



County Courthouse on January 23 to hear music and speakers, including area pastors, and then to walk around Memorial Park.

“It was an uplifting event,” said Wayne Wright, board member of the organizing group, Wenatchee Right to Life. “It gives you strength and motivation to get right out there and stand up for life.”

Organizers for the annual Walk for Life in Yakima plan to delay their event until Spring.



Pro-lifers gathered near the steps of the Wenatchee courthouse on January 23.