



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

FEBRUARY 2021 *Letter*

## Monsignor Mario Salazar: Celebrating 60 Years of Priesthood

By Christine Corbett Conklin

On February 11, Monsignor Mario Salazar, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Quincy, celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

“I am very happy serving the people for so long, and I wish to do more in the future,” he said, in comments for the *Central Washington Catholic*.

Born in Fredonia, Columbia, South America, Monsignor Salazar attended seminary in La Ceja and Bogota, Colombia; as well as Turin, Italy. He was ordained on February 11, 1961 by Cardinal Maurilio Fossatti in Turin. Originally ordained for the Salesians of Don Bosco, he remained in Colombia until 1975 when he came to the United States.

His favorite part of being a priest is “to serve the people and especially the poor,” he said. “For 10 years, I worked with the children of the streets in Colombia, and those were the best years of my life.”

Arriving in the Diocese of Yakima



*Monsignor Mario Salazar*

in the late 1970s was a challenge for him “because I didn’t know English,” he recalled. “It was very, very difficult.” However, he went on to devotedly serve in numerous parishes of the Diocese through the years.

He was assistant to the pastor for both St. Aloysius Parish in Toppenish and St. Joseph Parish in Sunnyside from

1977-78, before becoming associate pastor of St. Joseph from 1978 to 1989.

Next, he served as parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Grandview and Immaculate Conception Parish in Mabton through 1997. He has been pastor of St. Pius X since 1997.

“I see the differences in the two communities I serve, the Spanish and Anglo,” he observed. “They worship differently and have different levels of commitment and expectations.” However, “many people are very kind to me, and I feel that,” he said.

Now 87 years old, Monsignor Salazar said that he had planned to retire a number of years ago, “but the Bishop wanted me to come to Quincy. He (Bishop Sevilla) called me



*Monsignor Salazar in earlier years.*

for a whole month trying to convince me to come to Quincy. I finally agreed and told him I would come, but only for one year.” Now, more than 20 years later, he says, “I found a real loving community here in Quincy, that is why I stayed.”

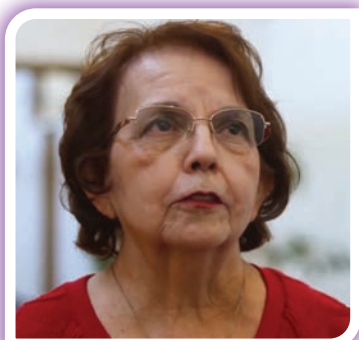
A very humble man, he also resisted for years being named “Monsignor,” a title which recognizes a priest’s distinguished service to the Church and is conferred by the Pope. Finally, the title was “imposed” on him, he says, adding, “I don’t like titles.”

To ensure that the Church has priests for the future, “Parents need to set the example for their children, so more young men will enter the vocation to the priesthood,” he suggested. “If they set the example, God will take care of the rest.”

Please join in congratulating Monsignor Salazar for his special anniversary and keep him and all of our clergy and religious in your prayers.

## Dedicated PREPARES Volunteer Dies From COVID-19 Illness

Janie Ibarra-Vijarro, a long-time PREPARES volunteer, recently passed away from COVID-19. Janie lived out her faith in ways that helped so many, from the PREPARES families she accompanied, to the man huddled outside of Walmart for whom she bought gloves, to clients of the food bank in Toppenish



*Janie Ibarra-Vijarro*

where she served on the board. Janie understood the struggles of people living in poverty from her own experience, and she was present for anyone who needed her. She drove a young woman to prenatal appointments this year; she represented PREPARES in our most recent video; she called families to make sure they had what they needed.

Janie was an Associate of the Sisters

of the Holy Names. “As an Associate, everything I do, I do as a ministry,” she said. This included her work as a real estate agent. Janie specialized in finding homes for people who imagined they could never afford one. At the online Rosary after her death, her husband Nino said, “Janie was always going. She always had someplace to go. ‘I’ve gotta take something to a family,’ she’d say, and off she’d go. ‘I’ve gotta help someone buy a house,’ and off she’d go. So, God called Janie,” Nino said, “and off she went.” We miss her already.

# A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

It has been about a year now since we recognized the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was just after our annual Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent that we entered into a lockdown. In some ways, the entire year feels like one extended Lent where we have been forced into a kind of fasting from physical closeness with each other. Even more, the string of COVID-19 funerals has been hard to bear.

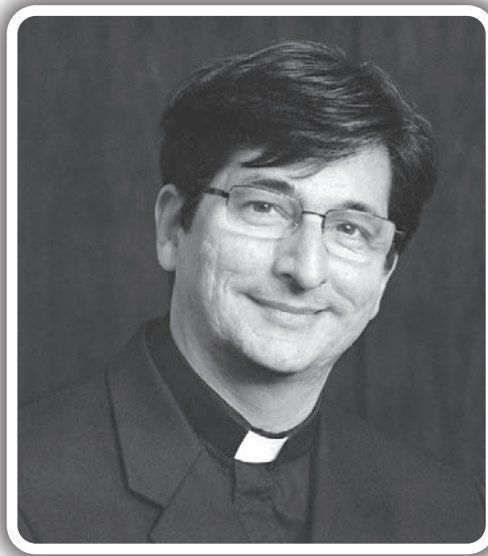
As some of you know, Fr. Alex Trejo's sister, Madre María Inés Trejo Estrada, recently died of COVID-19. I had the Zoom funeral Mass for her with him and some family here in the area even as I greeted family and friends back in Mexico via Zoom. Fr. Trejo, as you may recall, was one of the first priests in the United States to get COVID-19. I thought he was going to die. He was very weak. I was grateful to visit him at Kadlec Hospital in Richland during those early days, when visitors were allowed to see COVID-19 patients. I recall holding the cell phone for him as Fr. Trejo talked to his sister.

Madre Inés was a woman religious. She was also a doctor. Her religious order cares for the sick. At the time of her death, Fr. Alex's sister also was the religious superior of her community. I recall that during my phone conversations with her, while Fr. Alex was in the hospital, I gave her statistics about blood oxygen levels. As hard as her loss is for all of us, I take comfort in the fact that she died the way she lived. She died serving the sick. She died because of her service to the sick.

I am sure many of us have had loved ones die during the COVID-19 period. I have a family funeral down the road. It's been delayed until attendance limits increase so that more friends and loved ones here and overseas can attend. Such is life with COVID-19.

Yet, as hard as the coronavirus has been, I am also aware that COVID-19 has brought many fruits, even though we are physically distant and masked. We have had thousands of new participants in FORMED, our free faith resources platform. Thanks to your Annual Catholic Appeal donations, literally everyone in Central Washington, regardless of their religious background, can access the 200 movies, videos, books and music for free. These are in both Spanish and English. There is also a French documentary on the life of philosopher Jacques Maritain and a very fine film in German, "Der neunte Tag" (The Ninth Day) about priests who were incarcerated in Nazi Germany.

Interestingly, using Zoom as a platform for the English Magnificat faith formation classes has increased our attendance. I now know that when we can offer in-person instruction in the future, it will be a hybrid of live and online participation. Those who do not want to travel can use Zoom. But those



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

who do travel will be able to have lunch and a more direct conversation.

As Pope Francis has noted, COVID-19 has opened up many other wounds. It has exposed inequalities in health care and vaccine distribution. It has exposed and widened gaps between rich and poor. It has exposed the social wounds of division and distrust.

Here in the Yakima Valley during this COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of death due to opioid overdoses has doubled. Hauntingly, during our annual Presidents Day gathering, Dr. Fernando Ortiz educated us on the pandemic of pornography sweeping the country. It was very sobering. In this issue, Christine Conklin writes the first of a two-part series of articles on this topic. All parish leaders here in the Diocese of Yakima received Dr. Ortiz's PowerPoint presentations in both English and Spanish, which your pastor can make available to you.

Yet the flip side is that Dr. Ortiz and his wife, Chrissy, are opening a retreat center which will provide help for those addicted to pornography as well as help for growth in the spiritual life of our Church. The pandemic is calling forth life.

Lent is referred to in our prayers and even our prefaces to the Eucharistic prayers as a "joyous" season. Why? I think it goes back to the original insight of St. Augustine. Goodness grows in its proximity to evil. In one of his famous homilies, St. Augustine notes that God in his infinite power could have eliminated all suffering and all sin. But God does something better. He makes saints out of sinners. He makes martyrs out of the persecuted. He brings good out of evil.

In the movie, "God is not Dead," there is an interesting exchange between an adult son and his mother who, although she has dementia and Alzheimer's, has a moment of transcendental clarity. The son says to his mother how his life has been great even though he's the worst person he knows. The

mother responds with great precision and clarity. She notes that sometimes Satan allows his followers to live on this earth without troubles and with great material wealth. She says to him that it is like a luxurious, velvet-padded prison. Satan so protects his followers with luxury that they have trouble-free lives and, as a result, they never need to turn to God. But then this earthly life ends. The cell door shuts. The luxury prison they are in now is where they stay forever. Cut off from God.

Her wisdom is an echo of what we pray in Psalm 78 on Friday after Ash Wednesday: "Despite this they went on sinning; they had no faith in his wonders: So he ended their days like a breath and their years in sudden ruin."

That phrase "...despite this..." refers back to the way the psalmist recalls the many works and wonders of God. How God delivered his people from the slavery of the Pharaoh, how he fed them with manna in the desert, how he brought them into the Promised Land. This is somewhat akin to the insight of St. Ignatius that, in times of desolation and suffering, we should recall the consolation of how Christ has been present to us in the past.

This is what makes Lent a joyous season. In the same way God reaches out to save his people despite their sins, over and over again, God will do the same for us if our hearts are open. Fr. Alex Trejo's sister, whom I came to know, had an open heart in this life. I expect she sees now the open heart of God in eternity. She died as she lived. That is the great consolation. I hope this Lent finds you meditating on past consolations as you confront your own sins and trust more deeply in His grace and mercy, especially now during this COVID-19 pandemic.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

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If you have been abused or victimized by a member of the Catholic clergy, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

The Yakima Diocese has a sexual abuse hotline for those who wish to report some incident concerning that issue as regards a bishop, priest, deacon or diocesan employee or volunteer. (888) 276-4490

## Esther Loranger, Widow of the Late Deacon "Bill" Loranger, Dies

Esther Loranger, 86, widow of the late Deacon William "Bill" Loranger of East Wenatchee, died January 6 in an auto accident as her car was hit when she was returning home from morning Mass. Just days beforehand, she had mentioned to her children that she was ready to die whenever God decided to take her,



Esther Loranger

believing that she had done everything He had asked of her.

Raised on Badger Mountain, Washington, Esther Bromiley was one of nine children. She married Bill Loranger in 1953. Together, they also raised nine children while traveling with the U.S. Air Force.

Esther is survived by her children: Cindy, Steve and Wayne Loranger; Cathy Loranger Mazzega;

Tina Loranger Krause; Bruce and John Loranger; Sheri Loranger Houck; and Teresa Loranger Heinz. She also is survived by five sisters, Harriet Erb; Shirley Smith; Betty Hylton; Leah Myers and Sylvia Chapman; and two brothers, John and Stanley "Pete" Bromiley; plus many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Apostles Church in East Wenatchee. Please keep Esther in your prayers.

## Dolores Rizzo, Widow of the Late Deacon Al Rizzo, Dies

Dolores Rizzo, 91, widow of the late Deacon Alfred "Al" Rizzo of Richland, died January 7.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dolores Baumann married Al Rizzo in 1953, traveling with him as his career with the U.S. Navy and Department of Energy took them to many countries.

They moved 11 times, and traveled from England to Scotland, France, Italy and Japan. They raised seven sons, settling in Richland in 1976.

A woman of strong faith, Dolores

enjoyed hosting large family gatherings with meals and telling family stories. She even published three children's books based upon experiences of her grandchildren. She also enjoyed writing poetry and short stories.

Dolores is survived by her sons and




Dolores Rizzo

their wives: Michael (Robin); Gregory; Dominic (Lindy); Vincent (Barb); Alfred; Anthony (Mary); and Philip (Liane); a sister, Therese; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held in January, with a Celebration of Life planned for later this year.

Please keep Dolores in


your prayers.



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# NEWS

## *from Around the Diocese*

### **Remember Lenten Regulations** —

As the season of Lent continues, remember that, as Catholics, we have certain requirements which help us to better prepare for Easter.

Every Friday of Lent is a day of abstinence from meat for those age 14 and above. Good Friday, which this year falls on April 2, is a day of abstinence, and also fasting (one regular meal and two smaller meals) for anyone between the ages of 18 and 59. Health issues and certain work responsibilities may negate or lessen these requirements.

Those who are unable to attend Mass in person during Lent also are strongly encouraged to view online Masses offered through the Diocese of Yakima and/or other Catholic organizations.

### **Personnel To Be Honored** —

In place of the annual “Red, White and Blue” Masses, honoring medical, first responder and legal personnel, this year the Diocese of Yakima will offer Zoom “pastoral encounters” to celebrate these individuals.

The series will begin with a “White Encounter,” honoring physicians, nurses and other medical professionals from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 2. Next up is a “Blue Encounter” celebrating paramedics, EMTs and other first responders, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 9. Finally, there will be a “Red Encounter,” feting attorneys, judges, assistants and other members of the legal community from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 16.

For more information and Zoom access codes, contact the Diocese of Yakima at (509) 965-7117.

### **Chrism Mass is Scheduled** —

The annual Chrism Mass is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 23, at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. In-person attendance is likely to be limited due to the coronavirus pandemic, so check the websites and Facebook pages of the Cathedral, Diocese of Yakima, or your local parish for directions to participate online.

Bishop Joseph Tyson will be the principal celebrant, with priests of the Diocese concelebrating and deacons assisting. Priests, deacons and deacons’ wives also will take part in a Day of Reflection in the afternoon.

This annual Mass features both a blessing of the holy oils used in rites throughout the liturgical year and a renewal of promises by the priests. Last year’s Mass was postponed due to the pandemic, but later celebrated at the annual Priests Convocation in October at Christ the King Catholic Church in Richland.

## **Be Alert to The ‘Silent Epidemic’ of Pornography, Part One**

Pornography has become a “silent epidemic,” enslaving both men and women across our nation and in our own community. That was the warning of Dr. Fernando Ortiz, a licensed psychologist and director of the counseling center at Gonzaga University, in a recent Zoom presentation on addiction to educate personnel of the Diocese of Yakima.

With printed, and especially electronic images so easily accessible to people of all ages, pornography has become like alcohol or drugs, a common escape from the rigors of daily life.

And, just like other addictions, it can be insidious, with a casual exposure being the first step to increased dependence, Ortiz said.

An addiction to pornography can begin as an escape from negative feelings, from a sense of being lonely or unlovable. Getting a “fix” of pornography can create a sense of pleasure, by causing an increase of (a chemical messenger called) Dopamine in the brain. In time, a tolerance can develop to the material being viewed, so that an increased amount or more deviant material is required to have the same effect, Ortiz explained. It can become an obsession, with thoughts even occurring in an unlikely setting such as church.

A type of fantasy world may be created, with a false sense of control. However, in reality, the individual just ends up feeling worse with none of the original issues solved. There can even be withdrawal symptoms when someone tries to stop the habit.

Although pornography has traditionally been associated with males, “women are becoming more impulsive in their addiction,” Ortiz said. “More women are accessing more of these materials and unfortunately, it’s becoming addictive for them” as well.

As moderator of the Zoom session, Bishop Joseph Tyson pointed out that the days of someone needing to go to a store to buy a pornographic magazine wrapped in brown paper and then trying to “sneak it in the front door” are gone. Ortiz agreed. With technological advances, the threat is



greater because of the “Triple A” – these images are accessible, affordable (or even free) and anonymous, he said.

We also need to be wary of our secular culture which dismisses or even excuses the fascination with pornographic materials, Ortiz added. This attitude has no doubt helped to allow pornography to grow to become a multi-billion-dollar industry, more lucrative than combined pro football, baseball and basketball franchises or the combined revenues of ABC, CBS and NBC news.

The harm caused by pornography is not limited to the individuals who view it, Ortiz continued. It also can have serious effects on marriages and other relationships. For example, what a husband may view as “just entertainment” may feel to a wife more like an extra-marital affair, making her feel unattractive. “Overwhelmingly, the experience we have is one of detriment to families and individuals,” he said.

The very nature of pornography is an “offense against chastity” and “an injurious assault on that beautiful gift of our sexuality” within marriage.

“It is for us to attest to the Gospel values and our (Catholic) teachings,” relating to others in a way that is “dignified,” he said.

So, how can we combat this “silent epidemic” in our culture? Dr. Ortiz offers advice in Part Two of this article, appearing in the March issue of the *Central Washington Catholic*.