



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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MAY 2021 *Letter*

The Diocese Welcomes Fathers Michael Kelly and Eduardo Chávez

By Christine Corbett Conklin

The Diocese of Yakima has two new priests, following ordinations May 28 at Holy Family Church in Yakima. Transitional Deacons Michael Kelly, 24, and Eduardo Chávez, 33, took their vows in a beautiful rite in keeping with the ancient traditions of the Roman Catholic Church – and current COVID-19 regulations. A small, outdoor reception followed the ordination Mass.

“I’m very excited,” said Father Kelly, in an interview with the *Central Washington Catholic* before the ordination. “I’m about to get to work!” He will be assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Church, Yakima, beginning July 1.

“To tell the truth, I almost can’t believe it,” agreed Father Chávez. “It’s been a long journey for me. It’s wonderful. I feel overwhelmed with all the grace God has given me ... I’m happy. I’m happy to serve.” Chávez will be assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee.

Raised in Black Diamond and then living in Kennewick, Kelly said that he had never considered the priesthood until he was 14 and Father Perron Auve invited him to attend a Quo Vadis retreat for young men.

“It was simple, but it was profound,” he recalled, and he was struck by seeing young priests and seminarians at the retreat to whom he could relate. “As I learned more about the priesthood, the more I wanted to learn about it. There was a ‘magnetism’ of my heart towards the Church that grew.”

Born in Puebla, Mexico, Chávez grew up in New York. In 2008, he began five years of lay service with the Missionary Servants of the Word, which took him from Massachusetts to Arizona and California; and then Tijuana to Mexico City, Mexico.

“The religious life was a wonderful experience,” he recalled. “It helped me to mature, to discern my vocation.” After moving around so much, however,



Father Michael Kelly



Father Eduardo Chávez

Chávez said that he was drawn to the life of a diocesan priest, with a “desire to be for a longer period of time in one specific place.”

Father Kelly attended Mt. Angel College Seminary, the Hispanic Seminary of Santa Maria de Guadalupe in Mexico City and Mundelein Seminary, graduating with a Master’s in Divinity and a Sacred Theology Baccalaureate. Father Chávez also attended the Hispanic Seminary of Santa Maria de Guadalupe, receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and Theology.

Amid the years of serious studies, there also were moments of humor, Chávez said. He remembers how, one day, he was practicing saying the Mass at the seminary in Mexico City. It had taken his classmates about 30 minutes to do the assignment. When Chávez had his turn, he focused intently on including everything he should and finished. His instructor looked at him and commented that he had included everything he was supposed to. However, “he said I only

took about 15 minutes,” which was a little fast!

Now that the two priests have finally completed their years of seminary training and have been ordained, they are happily anticipating the years to come.

Kelly is especially looking forward to “preaching regularly to the same people,” to becoming part of a church community, as compared to moving around more as a deacon.

He also is grateful that he will be able to hear confessions, “with the incredible sacramental power of Reconciliation” by which “people are freed.” He goes forth with a special chalice, circa 1933, that was given to him by the Archdiocese of Chicago and a beautiful green vestment made for him by his aunt.

Chávez said that he is joyfully awaiting “everything that has to do with the priesthood, especially counseling and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I think that people are in need of being listened to, to being helped.” Although his family was not able to attend his ordination, he carries with him a special chalice from his godmother and an ornate chasuble (the outermost liturgical garment) given to him by a family in Mexico who “adopted” him while he was there.

Let us also send these two dedicated young servants of God into their new lives with much prayer, encouragement and support from the people of our Diocese!



Deacon Christian Melendez proclaims the Gospel on the Feast of the Ascension May 16, two days after his ordination.



Deacon Gene Ockinga receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Joseph Tyson at his ordination Mass May 14.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

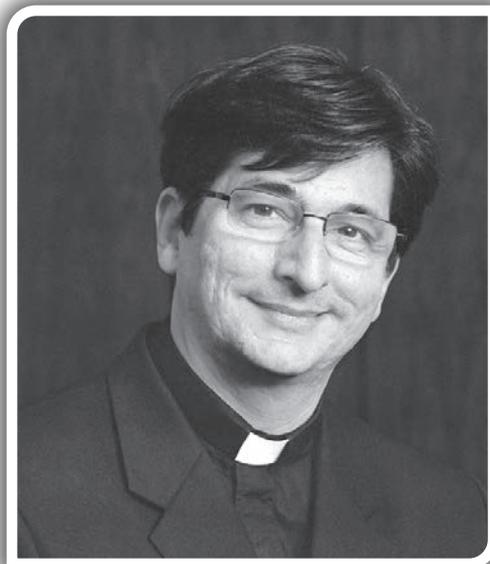
One of the high points for any bishop is the ordination of men for the priesthood. This is certainly the case for me as we welcome Father Michael Kelly and Father Eduardo Chávez as the newest members of our Yakima diocesan presbyterate.

Ordinations are filled with moving moments and meaningful gestures. Among them is the moment when the new priests lie flat on the floor, prostrated before the altar, humbly allowing the sounds of the sung litany of saints to wash over them.

It's a liturgical moment that highlights the reality that at every Mass everyone is gathered around the altar – the living and the dead – the saints in heaven and our friends on earth.

The physicality of lying on the floor also aligns to how we are called to lay down our lives for each other. We lay down our lives in imitation of the humble and brutal way Jesus lays down his life – tortured to death and crucified as a common criminal. The man who lies on the floor at ordination is meant to die to self so that he might rise with Christ as his priest.

The front door to this death is the discipline of celibacy for our Roman Rite priests. The Rite of Ordination refers to celibacy as a sign of “pastoral



Bishop Joseph Tyson

charity” that the priest may serve with an “undivided heart.” At the altar, everyone is equally nourished through the priest with the Body and Blood of Christ. When the priest leaves the altar, he pledges to serve all equally with his pastoral care, because no one has a prior claim on his heart, and all are fed in a precise iconographic alignment to Jesus Christ himself.

Laying down our lives. This is what Pope Francis uplifted in all of us when he promulgated the “Year of Joseph.” St. Joseph never speaks in the sacred scriptures. He's never quoted. Yet he

protects and serves silently. Inspired by grocery clerks, medical workers, parish priests, grandmothers, working dads and every sort of unnoticed and unarticulated daily service, in uplifting St. Joseph, Pope Francis means to uplift all of us — especially you who served on the front lines during the pandemic.

The many restrictions under which we have had to live the past year to promote the common good are finally easing. As we discuss and discern the best way to fully reopen our churches and resume our ministries, we should give thanks for the many efforts to pray, bless and serve during this COVID-19 pandemic. As a Church we may have needed to practice social distancing. But we were never distant from you and God was never distant from us.

The men we ordain were formed during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are ordained precisely for times like these. They lay down their lives and prostrate themselves before the Lord so they can do the same for all of you. Please pray for them as they begin the ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Father Kurt Hadley Appointed Pastor of St. Mary's

Effective July 1, Father Kurt Hadley, 41, Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Yakima, will become Pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church in White Swan, succeeding Father William Shaw, 92, who will assume Senior Priest status in the diocese.

Father Hadley was ordained to the priesthood May 24, 2019. Father William Shaw and his older brother, Father

John Shaw, were ordained June 1, 1957. They have been living together at the St. Mary's rectory but are looking to relocate to Yakima to be closer to family.

While priests may ask the Bishop's permission for senior priest status at age 65, with 25 years of service in the diocese, most continue serving as their health and other circumstances permit. Other active pastors over 80 include

Monsignor John Ecker, 88; Monsignor Mario A. Salazar, 87; Father William Byron, 83; and Father John Murtagh, 83.

Let's pray for Father Hadley in his new assignment as we continue to thank God for the service of our priests, and pray for an increase of vocations.

First Statewide PREPARES Collection a Success

Thank you for opening your heart with a gift to the PREPARES Valentine Appeal. Together, we raised over \$425,000 statewide for this life-affirming outreach to vulnerable children and their families.

In parishes all across our state, PREPARES is growing and has become a beacon of help and hope, especially for poor families who have chosen life. Thank

you for walking the journey and nurturing these vulnerable moms, dads and their little ones.

Your gift is truly a blessing to all those in the sacred care of PREPARES, a program of your local Catholic Charities Agency and the three Catholic dioceses of Washington state. For more information, visit www.preparesforlife.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.

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Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson

MODERATOR

Monsignor Robert M. Siler

EDITOR

Christine Corbett Conklin

TRANSLATIONS

Indiana Blandón

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Email: robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org

Tammy Goodman Named Catholic Charities USA Volunteer of the Year

Tammy Goodman of Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington has been named the CCUSA Volunteer of the Year for 2021, according to an announcement by Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA).

“Catholic Charities has been heavily engaged in bringing relief to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year now,” Sister Donna said. “Tammy is a wonderful example of our volunteers who have risen to the occasion under very trying circumstances and helped our sisters and brothers in need.”

For the past eight years, Tammy has volunteered at St. Vincent Centers’ food bank in Union Gap, serving

as lead volunteer for the past three years. During the pandemic, most volunteers at the food bank had to stop working because they were from vulnerable populations. Goodman trained multiple new volunteer groups during the pandemic because of turnover, and she led the effort to implement a service model for no-contact food distribution.

“We are delighted that Tammy Goodman has been chosen as the CCUSA Volunteer of the Year,” said Darlene Darnell, president and CEO of Catholic Charities Serving



Tammy Goodman

Central Washington. “Tammy exemplifies our mission of ‘bringing hope to life, especially for those most in need’ everyday! Tammy’s passion and love for her work shine through to everyone she encounters.”

The CCUSA Volunteer of the Year Award, given annually since 1998, is granted to an individual who embodies the mission of CCUSA: to provide

critical services to those in need, advocate for justice in social structures and call the entire Church and other people of good will to do the same. Catholic Charities agencies across the U.S. nominate candidates for the award from nearly 300,000 volunteers.

Messages from Our Mother in Heaven: Apparitions Offer Vital Advice *Continued from page 4*

as frequently” as they are reported at this site, “something’s happening there,” Father said. The atmosphere is “very peaceful and very prayerful ... people seem to have a rejuvenation of their Faith.”

In the book, “An Appeal from Mary in Argentina” by Father Rene Laurentin, additional words of warning

are cited, according to a report by the Catholic News Agency. “At one point, Mary said, ‘Many hearts do not accept my invitation to prayer and to conversion. That is why the work of the devil is growing and expanding,’” he recounts. “The warnings say that mankind is ‘in the process of falling into a progressive self-destruction’ and

the Virgin Mary represents hope. ‘It is up to you to set your eyes and your heart on God,’ she said. ‘I want to cure my children from this illness which is materialism; an illness which makes many suffer. I want to help them

discover Christ, and I want to make it known to them that Christ prevails over everything.’”

Of the many Marian apparitions reported through the centuries, others have been tied to Quito, Equador in 1594; Paris in 1830 (Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal); the state of Wisconsin in 1859 (Our Lady of Good Help); and Poland in 1877 (Our Lady of Gietrzwalk) and the 1930s (apparitions to Blessed Faustina regarding Diving Mercy).

“In all of the apparitions, the message is, ‘Turn to my Son. He will forgive sins, be there to help you,’” Father Ibach observed. “Prayer is a means of doing that. He’s the example and the model that we need to follow.” The apparitions underscore how much our Mother in Heaven cares about us, and the importance of heeding her messages.



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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Messages from Our Mother in Heaven: Apparitions Offer Vital Advice

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As the month of May draws to an end, it is important that we remember to honor the words of our Mother in Heaven: the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through apparitions to us, her children on earth, through the centuries, Mary has given us vital counsel about what matters in our lives.

Lourdes. Fatima. Medjugorje. You have heard the names.

Other apparitions are less known. Some have been “approved” by the Catholic Church as authentic. Others are regarded as “neutral” or “undetermined.”

“The messages are full of hope and motherly direction on how we must return to God, trust in Him, in His love, in the maternal love of Mary,” said the *National Catholic Register* in a 2016 article reporting on the approval by the local bishop of apparitions in San Nicolas, Argentina, beginning in 1983. “As a good mother does when her children are in danger, Mary doesn’t hesitate to warn us in these times as the world forgets about God, attacks Christianity, and idolizes materialism, science and technology. How relevant these warnings are now.”

In 1858, for example, when Our Lady appeared multiple times to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, she is reported to have



Our Lady of Lourdes

said, “I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the other (referring to Heaven),” according to the Lourdes Sanctuaire website. Our Lady urged, “penance, penance, penance. Pray for sinners.”

Her message, which is still very applicable today, is to “seek the mercy of God,” observed Very Rev. Michael Ibach, judicial vicar of the Diocese of Yakima and parochial vicar of Holy Family Church in Yakima.

In another approved series of visions, those of

Our Lady to three children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, Mary gave the children a vision of Hell. “You have seen Hell, where the souls of poor sinners go,” she said, as reported by ewtn.com. “It is to save them that God wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If you do what I tell you, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace. Mary also urged prayers for the conversion of Russia. “When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need.”

In apparitions such as Guadalupe, Mexico, in 1531, Our Lady brought a message of reassurance to the humble Juan Diego. Then, according to a report from the Catholic News Agency, she wished to “... exhibit and give all of my love, compassion, help, and protection,

because I am your merciful mother, to you and to all the inhabitants on this land and all the rest who love me, invoke and confide in me ...”

The Catholic Church takes a cautious, thoughtful approach to approving – or establishing as supernatural – any apparition, Father Ibach said. “Usually, the local church investigates,” he explained. Researchers look at how those who had a vision were affected. Did the experience change their character for the better? Did it deepen their devotion to God, their prayer lives? Was there a financial incentive or reward?

Investigators also observe those who visit an apparition site, Father said. “What is the effect on them? Do their lives change? Do they show more devotion?” Are claims of healing authentic?

Apparitions seem to occur “because there is a particular concern” at the time, Father Ibach said. This could range from the conversion of Russia to people drifting away from the Faith.

“Mary is the Mother of the Church, demonstrating a mother’s care for her children,” he said.

Continuing to current times are apparitions of Blessed Mother in Medjugorje, a part of Bosnia Herzegovina, which have reportedly been occurring since 1981. They have received a qualified nod from Pope Francis who authorized dioceses and parishes to conduct pilgrimages there.

Although “it’s very unusual to have apparitions go on this long and occur

Continued on page 3

Sisters of Providence Recognize 2021 Jubilarian

This summer, Sisters of Providence will celebrate the anniversaries of members who have served in the Renton, Washington-based congregation, including Sister Patricia Eley, who has ties to the Yakima Valley.

Because the sisters are continuing to observe health and safety precautions, they will mark their milestones with a scaled-back Jubilee celebration and livestream liturgy on July 24 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in West Seattle.

Patricia Eley, SP – 60 years

Sister Pat was born at Providence Hospital, Seattle, where her parents met as teenage employees. She knew from first grade that she wanted to be a

Sister of Providence and entered the community after graduating from Providence Academy in Vancouver, Washington. Although she started out studying nursing, she was sent to teach at St. Finbar School in Burbank, California, beginning a 31-year career teaching every grade from third through eighth. Her educational ministry included Holy Rosary School, Moxee, and schools in Vancouver, California and Seattle. Between teaching assignments, she worked in the finance departments of the health system’s



Sister Patricia Eley

corporate offices and the religious community.

Please keep Sister Pat and all of our clergy and religious in your prayers.

Sisters of Providence are Catholic women religious who respond to the needs of people who are poor and vulnerable through education, parish ministry, health care, community service and support, housing, prison ministry, pastoral care, spiritual direction and foreign missions. Mother Joseph Province encompasses Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, California, El Salvador and the Philippines.