



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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APRIL 2022 *Letter*

## Blessed Mother: A Real Human Being Who Faced Many Challenges

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As Father Michael Ibach observes, we tend to put Blessed Mother on a pedestal – literally and figuratively! Yet, as we begin May, the month of Mary, this holy woman can become much more relatable if we consider the very human challenges and emotions of her life.

“She wasn’t put on a cloud to fly through life,” said Father Ibach, judicial vicar of the Diocese of Yakima and parochial vicar of Holy Family Church in Yakima. “She didn’t go through life without any problems or concerns.”

Mary’s challenges began when, as a young woman, she was visited by an angel who told her she was to become the Mother of God. Confused by the news, she questioned how this was possible when she had not been physically close to any man. She quickly learned how “easily people can turn on you” and no doubt experienced some ostracization, Father said, in an interview with the *Central Washington Catholic*. That might even have explained her decision to leave her community and travel to visit her cousin, Elizabeth!

When her child, Jesus, arrived, the setting was a cave or stable, lacking in any of the conveniences we enjoy today. Then, the Holy Family had to flee to Egypt, where they “lived among foreigners for two years,” Father said. There, Mary no doubt found herself in a setting where “she didn’t have security, didn’t have (extended) family, and (they) probably were looked down upon.”

The key thing to remember about Mary is that, as the years went on, “she kept persisting in her faith, trusting in God,” Father observed. She believed that “God will see good come from whatever I’m suffering.”

Rather than being waited upon,

Mary also performed many of the tasks of human life, whether that was drawing water from a well, cooking, mending clothes or perhaps even helping Joseph in his workshop. When the time came, she even helped to “push” Jesus into His public ministry, as mothers sometimes prompt their children to step up to responsibilities, Father added. At the wedding feast of Cana, she called for the stewards to bring jugs of water which Jesus turned into wine, despite a little initial reluctance.

Finally, as Jesus’ ministry engendered controversy, “I think she was able to read the signs of the times,” Father said. Jesus did predict three times that He was going to suffer. When He was arrested, she must have realized “He’s going to die.” Even as she stood at the foot of the Cross, then held the body of her dead Son, she had “trust that somehow, out of this tragedy, good is going to come.”

Throughout her life, Mary served as a wonderful model for all of us to emulate. As she said at the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel appeared to her, “Let it be done to me according to your word.”

“I wonder how many times we look at these aspects of her life?” Father questioned. “We tend to think of her



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more in her heavenly area.” By meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary or prayers such as the Memorare, perhaps we can gain a “better understanding of Mary and how God is working in our lives.”

Pray daily for Mary’s intercession, especially in these difficult times we are all going through, Father urged. When family members cause us frustration, pray to Mary for patience. If there are issues with a marriage, pray that “you

and Joseph had challenges.” Think of Mary in her humanity. Let us all try to follow our Blessed Mother’s example, “I’ll try to live through it as best I can.”

### The Memorare

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

Amen.

## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

Welcome to another issue of the *Central Washington Catholic*. Father Michael Ibach's interview on the Blessed Virgin Mary sets the tone for the Marian month of May.

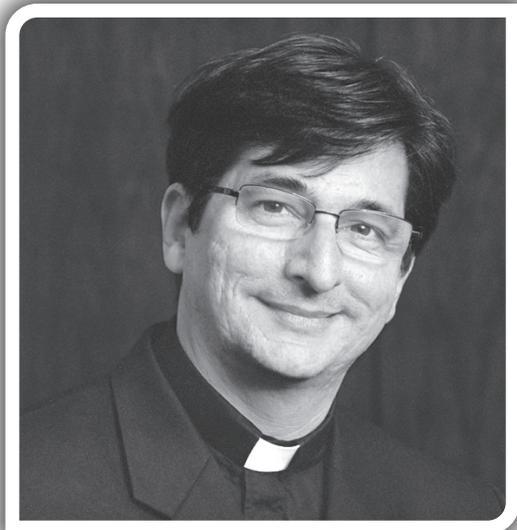
In this context, I might also uplift the great devotion that our Holy Father Pope Francis has to "Mary Undoer of Knots." It goes back to his time in Germany. After he finished being the Jesuit provincial in Argentina during a very trying social and political period, he left for Germany to pursue further studies.

In his travels he came across the famous oil painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary patiently undoing the knots of a long ribbon. The late seventeenth century painting was a donation to the Sankt Peter am Perlach Church in Augsburg, Germany. Before the painting was created, as the story goes, a certain Wolfgang Langenmantel was on the verge of breaking up with his wife, Sophia Rentz. Wolfgang went to his Jesuit parish priest, Fr. Jakob Rem, who was reported to have prayed for his parishioners with these words:

"In diesem religiösen Akt erhebe ich das Band der Ehe, löse alle Knoten und glätte es."

"In this religious act, I raise the bonds of matrimony, to untie all knots and smooth them."

The marriage was preserved. The kicker to this story is that Wolfgang and Sophia's grandson became a priest and commissioned the work of art — Our Lady the Undoer of



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

Knots. What a multigenerational love story and what a layered history of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary!

We are all aware of how many tight knots develop in our lives. There are things we cannot easily undo. We may even have memories of coming to our mothers when we were little and had tight knots in our shoelaces. This is the spirit with which Jesuit Father Jakob Rem brought the marital knot of his parishioners before the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Our world is in knots as well. Mariupol in Ukraine has been leveled. It is a town that bears the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Social knots of division endure around immigration. The unsolvable refugee and migrant crisis at our border and around the world is larger now than at any other time since the Second World War. The silos of social

media, blogs, and partisan news channels mean that consensus is hard even among people of good will. These are tight knots.

Perhaps this month of May gives us that opportunity to renew our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Perhaps we can bring the knots of our world and the knots of our lives before her. We cannot undo these knots on our own. But we can always ask for help from Mary who is the Mother of Jesus, and therefore the Mother of God is our mother too.

Perhaps ours can be the devotional prayer to Mary, Undoer of Knots who can intercede for us:

Mother of fair love,  
I look to you.

Take into your hands  
the ribbon of my life  
and see the snare of knots  
that keeps me bound  
to sin, anxiety and hopelessness.

I beg you, Mother, by your  
powerful intercession,  
and long fingers of love and grace,  
undo the knots in my heart  
and in my life,  
Free me to love as Christ loves.

Amen.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Deacon Melendez to be Ordained in May

On Friday, May 27, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wenatchee, Deacon Christian Melendez will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph J. Tyson. The Mass is at 6 p.m.

Melendez, 39, entered the priestly formation program for the Diocese in 2018 while working as a mental health therapist with the Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic. He is from Puerto Rico and is finishing his studies

at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago. He also is studying to be licensed in the State of Washington as a clinical psychologist.

As the date approaches, check the diocesan and parish websites and social media pages for updated information about livestreaming and any attendance limitations. Especially, please pray for Deacon Christian as he prepares for service in the Church as a priest.

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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# The Reward of Child Abuse Prevention

By Michael D. Hoffman

As caring adults, we all have the ability to be protectors of children and youth, and to help prevent child abuse from occurring – especially within the Catholic Church. I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse by clergy. I remain an active Catholic, and my wife and I raised our children Catholic, sending them to Catholic schools. I am also an advocate for the healing of survivors, and for the prevention of child abuse.

In 2013, I was invited to join the Board of Directors of Prevent Child Abuse – Illinois, which is the chartered state chapter of “Prevent Child Abuse America” – an organization dedicated to child abuse prevention through education, public awareness, public policy advocacy and community outreach (every state has its own “Prevent Child Abuse” chapter). To be completely forthcoming – beyond my willingness to foster the goals of preventing child abuse or neglect wherever children are – I had no idea how much the role would exceed my expectations of helping children and survivors. Much of the content was new to me, as I am not in the social service industry. I am the owner of a small orthopedic product distribution company, and I am a childhood sexual abuse survivor.

One aspect of Board service is helping to facilitate the annual Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Statewide Conference. At my first conference, I was tasked with

greeting attendees at the door and directing people to various seminar rooms. I was impressed by the sheer quantity of people attending. Once my job was completed, I was able to sit in on certain seminars, and found myself awestruck at the variety and quality of speakers. Topics included keeping our kids safe while using technology devices, child welfare and human trafficking, authentic parent engagement, home visiting programs, caring for the caregiver and much more.

There I was, a childhood sexual abuse survivor, sitting amongst good people who work for child welfare agencies across the state, hearing presentations from experts on child safety. It hit me like a ton of bricks. I actually left the building at lunchtime, and I sat in my car and cried. I realized that, during my childhood, I had never experienced these types of people – whose sole responsibility is to care for and protect children. My parents, and my school at the time, didn't have access to these programs and resources, which are considered to be the best practices of child safety – to protect me,

and other children, from my abuser. I didn't have anyone in my life who could actually hear the pain and sadness of a little boy who felt alone and didn't know what to do or say about what my abuser was doing to me.

I was crying at the realization of my lost innocence of my youth. Those were tears of sadness. I consoled my-

self with the full knowledge and understanding that even though I was not protected as a child, we have good people in our communities whose sole job is to protect children now. We have best practices of child safety programs and resources readily available to all. Also, we now have trusted adults, like you and I, who can listen to the cries of a little boy or little girl, hear their pain, and act to protect them from harm. I dried my tears. I left the car happy in my decision to join Prevent

Child Abuse – Illinois. I was also so happy to go back into the conference and surround myself with people who have the tremendous responsibility to be protectors of children and youth.

As a caring adult, you have a wonderful opportunity to be a safe adult to the children, youth and vulnerable in your life. If a child or youth trusts you enough to disclose sexual abuse to you, your response can have a tremendous impact on their healing. First, just listen to them with compassion and allow them to tell their story. When they are done sharing, let them know that the abuse is not their fault, and that they are brave for telling you. Let them know you believe them and that you will take appropriate action. Then, immediately report what was disclosed to your local Child Protective Services agency, or to law enforcement.

Because of abuse prevention programs – and safe adults who are willing to take action to protect children and youth – I remain filled with hope that no other child has to endure what was imposed upon me. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as a protector of children and youth, and I hope telling my story can help break the silence that has historically surrounded childhood sexual abuse in our society.

*NOTE: Mr. Hoffman is featured in the newest Virtus training for adults that is being introduced for clergy, employees and volunteers in the Diocese of Yakima.*



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## How Well Do You Know The Basics of Your Catholic Faith?

This Easter season is a good time to refresh your knowledge on some basics of the Catholic Faith. Try the following quiz to challenge yourself:

- 1.) Which of these are the three theological virtues?
  - a. Faith.
  - b. Justice.
  - c. Charity.
  - d. Hope.
- 2.) What words did Jesus say, in about 33 A.D., when founding the Catholic Church?
  - a. Let it be done according to My will.
  - b. As of today, the Church has begun.
  - c. Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church.
  - d. This is the Church for all ages.
- 3.) How many Sundays are there and what is the vestment color for Ordinary Time?
  - a. Forty Sundays and purple.
  - b. Thirty-six or thirty-seven Sundays and green.
  - c. Twenty-eight Sundays and white.
  - d. Thirty-three or thirty-four Sundays and green.
- 4.) Which of these is a Cardinal Virtue?
  - a. Compassion, a kindness toward others.
  - b. Temperance, moderation and restraint controlled by reason.
  - c. Joviality, a pleasant quality of being outgoing.
  - d. Truthfulness, being forthright in what you say.

- 5.) On which Sunday do Catholics observe the coming of the Holy Spirit?
  - a. Divine Mercy Sunday.
  - b. Epiphany.
  - c. Pentecost.
  - d. Corpus Christi.

- 6.) A scapular is an object of piety, showing devotion, most like a:
  - a. Necklace.
  - b. Holy card.
  - c. Book.
  - d. Statue.

- 7.) In which part of the Mass do bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ?
  - a. Liturgy of the Word.
  - b. Entrance antiphon.
  - c. Consecration.
  - d. Benediction.

- 8.) What is Papal infallibility?
  - a. The Pope is always correct in everything he says.
  - b. The Pope cannot make a mistake in anything he does.
  - c. The Pope is always accurate when he speaks from a pulpit in Church.
  - d. The Pope cannot error when declaring dogmatic teachings of faith.

- 9.) What is the judgment called immediately after we die?
  - a. Partial.
  - b. General.
  - c. Particular.
  - d. Individual.



- 10.) What is NOT a condition for a mortal sin?
  - a. Full knowledge.
  - b. A grave offense.
  - c. Outside influence.
  - d. Full consent.

### Answers:

- 1.) Faith, hope and charity;
- 2.) Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church;
- 3.) Thirty-three or thirty-four Sundays and green;
- 4.) Temperance; 5.) Pentecost; 6.) Necklace; 7.) Consecration; 8.) The Pope cannot error when declaring dogmatic teachings of faith;
- 9.) Particular; 10.) Outside influence.

*Thanks to the "Roman Catholicism Trivia Questions/Fun Trivia" website from which these questions and answers were adapted. Check this site for hundreds of other questions on which to quiz yourself.*

## Cor Christi Catholic Youth Camp Coming Soon

The third annual Cor Christi Catholic youth camp is just around the corner, scheduled for June 19-24 at Lazy F Camp in Ellensburg. Formerly known as Central Washington Catholic Youth Camp, the session is open for young people entering fifth grade to those graduating from high school in 2022.

This is a quality, week-long summer camp which will include daily Mass and Rosary, Adoration, Reconciliation, faith

talks, plus the presence of priests and sisters. There also will be songs and games, swimming, inner tubing, a climbing wall, zipline, and campfire every night. This year's theme is "Ocean of Mercy."

Registration is requested as soon as possible to ensure an available spot. Register at the new website, [CorChristi.net/camp](http://CorChristi.net/camp), or call Director Michael Drollman for details at (509) 699-1235.

## Church Mission Congress Is Scheduled

Make plans now to attend the upcoming Church Mission Congress, scheduled for Saturday, October 15 at Holy Family Church, 5315 Tieton Drive in Yakima.

The Congress will provide an opportunity to discuss where we stand as a Church, in the Synod process involving the three elements of "Communion, Participation and Mission."

For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact Valeria Flores at [valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.org](mailto:valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.org) or call (509) 965-7117.