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MAY 2023 *Letter*

Father Michael Ibach, Judicial Vicar, Celebrates 50 Years of Priesthood

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As Father Michael Ibach looked forward to his 50th anniversary of priesthood, on May 26, he observed, “I feel very blessed that I’m a priest and have had many wonderful experiences.”

Parishioners, friends and family had the opportunity to thank him for his decades of service at a Mass and reception at Holy Family Church in Yakima on May 27.

“I’m humbled that I’ve been able to share in very personal aspects of people’s lives,” he observed. “I feel that God has very much guided my ministry and I’m pleased that I can serve the people of the Diocese of Yakima.”

Father Ibach, who now serves as judicial vicar of the Diocese and parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish, is a native of Yakima. The son of Joseph and Frances (Kiefel) Ibach, he graduated from St. Paul Cathedral School, then went to St. Edward’s Seminary in Kenmore, Washington, from 1961-67. He received both B.A. and Master’s degrees from St. Thomas Seminary, also in Kenmore, and later, an advanced graduate degree in canon law from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Father Ibach was ordained in 1973 at St. Paul Cathedral by Bishop Cornelius Power and is currently the only priest in the Diocese to hold that distinction. Through the years, he has served in numerous parishes, including St. Joseph, Kennewick; Our Lady of Fatima, Moses Lake; Queen

of All Saints, Warden; St. Rose of Lima, Ephrata; Our Most Sorrowful Mother, Soap Lake; St. Francis De Sales, Chelan; St. Anne Parish, Bridgeport; St. Joseph, Sunnyside; and Our Lady of Lourdes, Selah, before coming to Holy Family Parish and also serving at St. Joseph at the Ahtanum Mission.

In 1988, Bishop William Skylstad asked Father if he would go to Ontario to study for a degree in canon law. After receiving that degree, Bishop Francis George appointed him as judicial vicar of the Diocese, a post which he now has held for 29 years. The position involves serving as an advisor to Bishop Tyson on matters of church (or “canon”) law, and supervising everything from dispensations to a “declaration of nullity” (annulment) of a marriage and penal law cases.

Father Ibach also has served as president of the diocesan priests council, and on the boards for personnel, deacon formation, consultors and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

In looking back over the years, Father laughs about some of his early experiences as a priest. There was the bride he called by the wrong name. A sermon to children in which he thought he was being creative, but which was “over their heads.” As a



Father Michael Ibach

new priest, “you think you know everything and you very quickly learn that you’re a greenhorn,” he said. Then, there are the periodic humbling moments in which, at a parish function, “they call you up to dance the hula or something.” These experiences all “help to bring out your humanity,” he believes.

A particular challenge of priesthood for him has been “dealing with the changes” though the years – whether it’s a change in liturgy or a change in personnel.

“Generally (priesthood) has been a very happy experience,” though, he said. He loves “seeing the faith development of people and being able to be a part of that... You’re allowed into people’s lives... They are so good to us and so trusting in us,” he said.

“It’s very rewarding. You know you have a position of leadership and want to be a good example for them,” he said. Father recalls the “good priests” he met in Yakima, as an elementary school student, including Monsignor John Ecker, Monsignor Edmund McGrath and Monsignor Desmond Dillon. They helped to inspire his own journey to the priesthood.

“God’s guiding hand has been with me. Overall, it’s been a good life!” he concluded.

Eight Deacons Ordained in Wenatchee for The Diocese of Yakima

The Diocese of Yakima has eight new deacons! Bishop Joseph Tyson ordained one transitional deacon and seven permanent deacons on Friday, May 26, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wenatchee.

John Washington, 29, originally from Dahlonega, Georgia, has been studying for the priesthood at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago. He will serve this summer at Our Lady of the Desert Parish in Mattawa, then return to Mundelein to complete his studies prior to priestly ordination.

The following men were ordained permanent deacons. They have been in formation for several years. The names of their spouses are in parentheses.

- Santiago Hurtado, 53, will serve at St. Joseph Catholic Church in White Salmon.
- Stephen Kenny, 70, will serve at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Prosser.
- José Fidel Márquez, 74, will serve at Christ the King Catholic Church in Richland.

- Francisco Mejia, 57 (Patricia) will serve at Our Lady of the Desert.
 - Felix Ramirez, 60 (Elizabeth) will serve at Our Lady of the Desert.
 - Miguel Rodriguez, 60 (Maria Guadalupe) will serve at Our Lady of the Desert.
 - Alfredo Velazquez, 50 (Beatriz) will serve at St. Joseph in Wenatchee.
- Please keep all of our new deacons, our other clergy and religious in your prayers.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

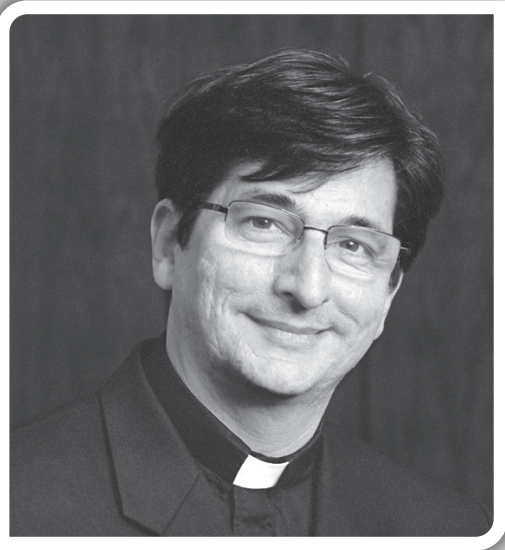
Welcome to another issue of the *Central Washington Catholic*. What ties the stories and features this month? In one word “communion.” “Communion” is the first step in the global synodal process outlined by Pope Francis. “Communion” is also what anchors our national “Eucharistic Revival” across the United States. Whether we are celebrating ordinations or anniversaries, preparing for camps, or seeking to better protect our children, we do so as people in communion with one another.

This year, many parishes across the Diocese of Yakima will be holding Eucharistic processions June 11 on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). I, myself, will be leading a procession with the Blessed Sacrament between Saint Joseph Catholic Church and St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima.

This “Eucharistic Revival” anchored our first Family Evangelization Congress since the COVID-19 pandemic, April 28-30 at the Yakima SunDome. Over the three-day event, about 3,000 Catholics participated. Each of the speakers touched on some aspect of the Eucharist. Our Eucharistic Adoration on Friday evening drew upwards of 1,500 people.

For our national revival, I have already sent out links to the many on-line resources in Spanish and English for your parish leaders to use. The culmination is a Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 17-21, 2024. The cost of entrance is \$375 per person, or \$299 each for adults with families (and \$99 each for children 3 to 18). For many, that cost could be prohibitive, especially with additional travel and lodging expenses.

But this is precisely why I am encouraging each parish to consider a Eucharistic procession on Corpus Christi



Bishop Joseph Tyson

and why I am hoping you will consider looking at the on-line resources yourself (www.eucharisticrevival.org) so that you and your family can renew and assimilate the beauty of the Eucharist, the reverent celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday as well as those times of quiet prayer and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament.

How does this “Eucharistic Revival” connect with Pope Francis and the Synod on Synodality also taking place this October, and in October 2024? Synodality, as I have written before, comes from the Greek word “to walk together.” This is precisely what happens “on that first day” in the words of the Gospel of Saint Luke. We read in the 24th chapter of Saint Luke how “on that first day” two downcast disciples are walking away from Jerusalem and toward Emmaus. A third traveler approaches them. The two disciples begin to narrate all the events that occurred in Jerusalem and how their beloved Jesus was brutally crucified. They tell this unknown traveler about reports from the women and other disciples about a vision of angels and an

empty tomb.

As readers, we know the story. We know that this third unknown traveler is Jesus, and that He walks with them the wrong direction and listens to their woes. So we are not surprised that Jesus, “unrecognized” by the two disciples, would explain the meaning of this crucifixion in the context of the Old Testament scriptures.

Indeed, Jesus walks with them the wrong way – away from Jerusalem – and when they reach the village, the two disciples ask their disguised traveler-friend to stay with them and dine. The two discover “in the breaking of the bread” that it is Jesus, Himself, who has been walking with them all day, the wrong way!

Synodality leads to communion. Walking together leads to the Eucharist.

I opened this column outlining my hopes for a Eucharistic renewal especially on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Let me close by asking you to save the date for our next “synodal moment” here in the Diocese of Yakima – the Church Mission Congress on Saturday, October 14, 2023. The top priority that surfaced in our diocesan synodal process was “youth.” So that is our focus. We will have Bishop Joseph Espallat, who is the auxiliary bishop for the Bronx in New York City, as our keynote speaker. Appropriately, he will close his time with us by celebrating Eucharist at St. Paul Cathedral on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at the English 11 a.m. Mass and the Spanish 1 p.m. Mass.

In the meantime, let us keep walking together, thus better preparing ourselves for the communion we share in the celebration of the Eucharist.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

How Well Do You Know Your Catholic Faith? *Continued from page 4*

9. Which heresy, condemned by the Church, said Jesus was not divine?

- a) Geneticism
- b) Arianism
- c) Calvinism
- d) Justinianism

10. What is the area over which the Pope has jurisdiction, as bishop?

- a) Roman Curia
- b) San Angelo Palace
- c) St. Peter’s Basilica
- d) The Holy See

We acknowledge the following sites for ideas upon which to base these questions: ucatholic.com; zoo.com; funtrivia.com; oursundayvisitor.com; and propofs.com.

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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Writer's Corner – Encountering Christ in the Mentally Ill

Note: This article is the first in a recurring series that will feature the written work of a member of our clergy or professional staff. It could be anything from a well-received homily to a PowerPoint presentation to a doctoral dissertation. At the end of the article, readers will find a link to where the document can be read in its entirety.

THE PROJECT: Msgr. Robert Siler, episcopal vicar of the Diocese of Yakima, wrote a report in 2000 about his ministry experiences in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) while a student at Mount Angel Seminary. The report partially fulfilled the requirements for a Master of Divinity Degree.

WHY DID IT INTEREST YOU? I had a field education assignment with other seminarians visiting residents at the Oregon State Psychiatric Hospital in Salem in the 1996-1997 school year. This led to a summer unit of CPE in 1997, then a second unit on Thursdays during the 1999-2000 school year. Each unit required 200 hours of direct ministry, and an equal amount in reading, instruction, and group discussion.

WHAT WERE KEY LEARNINGS? Ministry to the mentally ill dovetailed with scripture studies I did in Matthew's Gospel: the account of Jesus casting out demons of two possessed persons (Mt. 8: 28-34) and the Judgment of the Nations (Mt. 25: 31-40) based on their treatment of the "least." I also drew on St. Paul's letter to the Philippians (Phil. 2:

1-11).

Matthew's 25: 31-46 is cited more than 20 times in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In regard to ministry, it points to a key pastoral principle: respect for those to whom we minister. The story of the Gadarene demons in Mt. 8: 28-34 speaks of the importance of unconditional love, even for those whose behavior frightens us; finally, Saint Paul calls for humble servant leadership, based on Christ, who "emptied himself" in taking on our human flesh.

OTHER LEARNINGS: Here are a few quotes that still resonated with me as I re-read the report: "Seeing Christ in those who suffer does not mean we overlook their faults and failings, or excuse their crimes. All persons are created with free will and can choose to turn away from God. But the close identity between Christ and those who suffer focuses our attention on a key pastoral principle: respect."

"... Martin Werntz, a mental health therapist, ... described the 'continuum of mental health' which all of us are on. Those who are patients in mental facilities, he said, are the


ones whose behavior has brought them to the attention of the authorities. Sometimes I wonder how I would fare in court!"

"One pastoral encounter, on the last day of my field education placement, still haunts me. A young man, autistic, looked into my eyes with a very sad expression on his face, and said, 'I wish you could take me home with you.' I told him that I wished I could, too, and I meant it. I have often thought back to that encounter, wondering if it might have been a mysterious call from God to devote my ministry exclusively to the care of the mentally ill ... And yet, I also feel strongly at this point in my life a call to parish ministry, which will include ministry to mentally ill people who 'haven't come to the attention of the authorities.'"

HOW HAS IT BEEN RECEIVED? My Mom read it cover to cover two or three times. She also liked the much more scholarly thesis I wrote for an M.A. degree in theology. She kept it by her bedside, she said, to read when she needed help falling asleep! The ministry report is much more a "work of the heart."

WHERE COULD WE READ IT? Visit the library at Mount Angel Abbey, or click on this link: <https://bit.ly/43Dhcjh>.






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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Catholic Youth Camp Nears

It's almost time for the fourth annual Catholic Youth Camp, scheduled for June 18-23 at Lazy F Camp in Ellensburg. This year's theme is "As It Is In Heaven."

This is a quality, week-long summer camp for students entering fifth grade through 2023 high school graduates.

The program includes daily Mass and Rosary, Adoration, Reconciliation, daily faith talks plus songs and games, gagaball, water fun, a climbing wall, zipline and a campfire each night.

Counselors and an arts and crafts director are encouraged to apply, joining adult supervisors and staff including priests and religious sisters. Those who would like to sponsor a camper are also encouraged to contact camp directors.

Applications and questions may be directed to camp@corchristi.net.

Church Mission Congress Planned

"Youth" is the theme for this year's Church Mission Congress, scheduled for Saturday, October 14 at La Salle High School in Union Gap.

Open to the public, the Congress is especially welcoming of youth, catechists, lectors, ministers of Holy Communion and youth ministers. The Congress is designed to provide vision and leadership to those involved in the many aspects of evangelization and faith formation.

Volunteers are needed for this event. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Valeria Flores at (509) 965-7117 or email valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.org. Pre-registration will open soon.

Parish News Is Welcome

The *Central Washington Catholic* welcomes parish news. If your parish has an upcoming program or event, open to the public; a construction project or acquisition of a new statue or other special church fixture; or a clergy member or lay person who has received special recognition, please let us know.

Depending upon available space, we will try to include as many items as possible.

The deadline for submission of material is noon on the first day of the month of publication. Email: robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org.

It's Important to Check In On Baby Safety

By Caitlin Bootsma Courtesy of Virtus

When it comes to baby safety, there are so many important tips out there. The National Safety Council, for example, helps caregivers consider risks like suffocation, safe sleep and other hazards around the house (check out that list at: <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/child-safety/childproofing-your-home>).

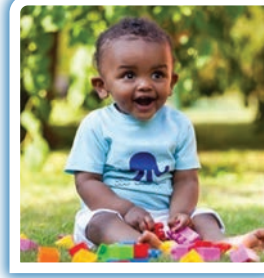
And of course, making sure you have the right car seat, properly installed, is essential for road safety (see some tips at: <https://www.safekids.org/car-seat>).

Yet, even when we check off all the practical things to keep the babies in our care safe, there are some other things to consider. Here are a few questions to ask yourself if you are taking care of babies or in this stage of parenting.

• **Am I getting enough sleep?** Especially to parents of newborns, getting sufficient sleep may seem impossible. But finding the time, even if it's during the day, is so important not only for your own health, but also so you have the capacity to take care of the baby. For caregivers of all other ages, having enough sleep allows you more mental faculties to react to mischief and frustrations in a calmer way.

• **Am I checking in on my own mental health?** If you're struggling after the birth of a baby, or any time as a caregiver, don't hesitate to talk to your medical provider.

• **Do I have trusted people to help share in the care of my baby?** Having an important team of care for a baby is essential! This



It's important to keep our children safe.

includes a doctor, relatives or family friends you can ask for assistance, and even trusted people you can ask for advice as new challenges arise. Being a part of an established "mom" or "dad" group, or cultivating your own group can make a big difference. Seeing others who are experiencing children in similar stages of development can help ease your own stress and give you additional examples of how to manage.

• **Do the people in contact with the baby know how to keep the baby safe?** It's never too late to review safety protocols with other people sharing a household for a baby. For example, does big sister know not to pick the baby up when you're out of the room? Does everyone know they should ask the primary caretaker before giving the baby anything to eat or drink? Does everyone know how to specifically cut grapes and hot dogs or popcorn so that they aren't choking hazards? Does everyone know what toys cannot be out when the baby is around? Together, everyone can help keep the baby safe.

• **Are there baby safety protocols I wish I knew more about?** Taking care of young people, and especially babies, is a learning process. You may have sleep routines down, but wonder if you should learn more about baby CPR or introducing foods to the baby. Consider taking the time to learn something new about the best way to help the baby in your care grow up safely. There are plenty of websites that can help in this!

Note: Virtus provides safe environment training materials to the three dioceses in Washington State as well as to many church organizations throughout the United States.

How Well Do You Know Your Catholic Faith?

Take the following quiz to see how well you know your Catholic Faith. Answers follow at the end.

1. Which station was recently added to the Stations of the Cross?

- a) The Annunciation
- b) The Visitation
- c) Presentation in the Temple
- d) The Resurrection

2. Which of these books is not part of the Bible's Pentateuch?

- a) Judges
- b) Leviticus
- c) Numbers
- d) Deuteronomy

3. Which of these is not one of the Luminous Mysteries?

- a) The Baptism in the Jordan
- b) The Presentation in the Temple
- c) The Wedding Feast at Cana
- d) The Transfiguration

4. What do they call the change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ?

- a) Transformation
- b) Investiture
- c) Transubstantiation

d) Ordination

5. This is the defense of what the Catholic Church teaches.

- a) Apologetics
- b) Theology
- c) Evangelization
- d) Ecumenism

6. In an emergency, even a non-baptized person may perform:

- a) Penance
- b) Marriage
- c) Baptism
- d) Anointing of the Sick

7. In a Catholic Church, "ambo" is another name for:

- a) The table used to hold the water and wine
- b) The holy water fountain
- c) The kneeler to the side of the altar
- d) The lectern where the Gospel is read

8. A Catholic deacon is allowed to:

- a) Preach
- b) Say Mass
- c) Hear Confession
- d) Anoint the sick

Continued on page 2