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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOSÉ FÉLIX ORTEGA

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When it comes to movies and actors, I confess my complete ignorance and lack of personal interest. Therefore, obviously, I didn't watch the Academy Oscar's ceremony last Sunday, but someone sent me a small clip when one of the singers, in accepting her award, said: "I have worked hard for a long time and it's not about winning. What it's about is not giving up. If you have a dream, fight for it. There's a discipline for passion: it's not about how many times you get rejected or you fall down and get beaten up, but how many times you stand up, and are brave and you keep on going."

In a few days we are starting Lent with the ceremony for Ash Wednesday. We are reminded that we can always come back to God's mercy, it is about not giving up. It doesn't matter how many times we fall, sin and leave the Father's house like the prodigal son, but how many times we stand up again, and are brave to come back and accept His love and mercy for each one of us. Our prize is not a golden statue, but something bigger that lasts forever.

Lent is not about giving up, but about accepting God's love one more time... and, in doing so, we undoubtedly end giving up a few things. As we embark on this Lenten journey, count on my prayers.

God bless,
Father José Félix