

We had a wonderful **Soccer Tournament** last weekend. Various teams competed from early morning through mid-afternoon. Below are pictures of the children and adult winners of the “Monroe Cup.” Chris Carbajal provided these excellent pictures. I would like to thank the Carbajal and Rodriguez families for all their hard work organizing the event. Thank you also to those who brought food and worked in food sales. Below is picture of Marni Frazer and Damiano Besabe preparing corn on the cob, flavored with mayo and parmesan cheese – a delicious combination. They sold one hundred ears of corn! Food sales and entrance fees for the teams netted almost two thousand dollars for our World Youth Day delegation.

I would like to thank all those who supported our World Youth Day delegation by attending fundraising events and/or by making a direct donation. **This week we broke the \$10,000 mark!** Here is a breakdown of funds received (as of Thursday):

Shrine Project.....	\$1,332.55
Collections & WYD envelopes.....	2,769.34
Garage Sale	3,370.28
Bake Sales.....	768.05
Soccer Tournament.....	1,907.50
 Total.....	 \$10,147.72

This is a great start, but we have a long way to go. I am hoping to take about thirty youth, young adults and adult chaperones to World Youth Day next August. This parish delegation will be the basis for a great youth group in the coming school year. They will help give greater vitality to our parish and will provide good leadership for the future. **To support our World Youth Day delegation is one of the best investments that one can make in the present and the future of our Church.** Of course, individual families will be making the biggest financial investment, but with your help the burden will not be overwhelming for any parish family that wants their young person to have this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Above all, please pray for all of our young people. On Monday I will be meeting individually with the families who want their young persons to be part of St. Mary of the Valley delegation to World Youth Day 2011.

On Sunday morning we have a nice surprise. **Bishop Eusebio Elizondo** will be with us to celebrate the 9:30 a.m. and noon Masses. I have invited Bishop Elizondo to join us for a hamburger or hot dog after the noon Mass. I hope all of you will also be there for our Parish Picnic.

We had some positive news this week on the human life front. A judge upheld a law that would ensure that our federal taxes would not be used in research that involves the destruction of human embryos. Here are few things to know when discussing this issue: **The Catholic Church does *not* oppose stem-cell research.** Catholic organizations (including the Vatican itself) have given moral and financial support to research using adult stem cells. These cells can

come from bone marrow, umbilical cord blood and even from body fat. There is no problem with research involving adult stem cells. **The problem comes with the use of human embryos to harvest stem cells.** Research using embryonic stem cells involves the destruction of human embryos. They are tiny, but each one has a mother and a father, as well as grandparents and other relatives. They are our brothers and sisters – the smallest members of the human family. To create them in Petri dishes and to later destroy them is a grave violation of human dignity. It is sad that our nation has an estimated 400,000 frozen human embryos stored in laboratories. It does not have to be that way. **Many other nations (including Germany and Italy) have laws against the production and freezing of human embryos.** I pray that one day our country will have similar laws to protect the tiniest humans. For further information I have posted a question and answer flier regarding “Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning.”

In conclusion, two invitations: First, if you are free on Tuesday and/or Wednesday evening, please consider attending the talks by the popular Catholic motivational speaker, **Matthew Kelly** at Holy Family, Kirkland (see bulletin board flier for details). Second, I will be available for **confessions this Friday evening**, beginning at 7 p.m., as well as regular confession times, 45 minutes prior to our three weekend Masses.

**Team Mexico 1st place Little Kid Champions
Monroe Cup WYO**



**Team Trabuco 1st Place Adult Champions
Monroe Cup WYD**



