



From the desk of Fr. Bloom

It was wonderful to enroll our candidates for Confirmation last Sunday. Below is a picture of Ryan Chestine signing the enrollment book. (For other pictures, please see: <http://stmaryvalleybloom.org/stmaryalbum.html>) Bishop Eusebio Elizondo will be here on April 18 (9:30 a.m. Mass) to celebrate this beautiful sacrament of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for all of our candidates: McKenzie Causna Albin, Cody Avalos, Ryan Chestine, Marine Druse, Abby Jacobo, Ismael Machuca, Daniel Palmer, Joshua Rivera, Adam Schilling, Jasmine Yap, Tyler Zissel, Isabel Santos, Julio Robles, Bonifacio Lezama, Leonel Pacheca, Aline Martinez, Heriberto C.A., Yaneth Cuellar, Alex Leon, Jose Garibay, Maria Alonso, Juan Santos, Israel Santiago, Pablo Ulloa, Veronica Mendez Mata, Maria de los Angeles Basurto, Jose Perez, Chris Carbajal, Carmen Alvarez, Cesar Elizondo, Griselda Perez, Anahi Talavera, Brenda Rivera, Patricia Rivera, Carlos Talavera, John Naranjo and Luis Machado.

As Jim Bloss mentions in the Social Justice Commission Corner, we had a meeting on Friday evening. Social justice, of course, covers a broad variety of issues, but we have tried to focus on supporting the projects of the Archdiocese of Seattle and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. These include the annual March for Life, Catholic Advocacy Day and the campaign to ensure respect for conscience of healthcare workers and that taxpayers are not forced to pay for abortions as part of “health care.” The American bishops have also asked to be involved in the effort to seek comprehensive immigration reform. This complex issue touches us deeply, and in the Sundays before Lent I hope to offer further information and a simple way of participating.

On Thursday evening we had our Finance Council meeting to review parish income and expenses during the first six months of the fiscal year (from July 1 through December 31, 2009). I will be giving a report to the Parish Council on Feb 11 and subsequently to the parish as a whole. I deeply appreciate your financial support, as well as your Stewardship of Time and Talent. With the help of Traci Adams, I am reactivating our Stewardship Commission. We will have a formal meeting on March 10.

It is hard to believe that Lent begins in just two and half weeks. On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we will have Masses at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. in English, and at 7:30 p.m. in Spanish. In coming bulletins I will give some suggestions for a deeper participation in the holy season of Lent. One activity I ask you to consider is *40 Days for Life*. You will notice the bulletin announcement inviting you pray for unborn children and for their moms and dads. I have made a commitment to some specific hours of prayer in front of the Everett Planned Parenthood Clinic. I invite you to consider joining me and other parishioners in this prayer for the “least of our brothers and sisters” – and to save young parents from the wound of abortion.

Speaking of prayer, please remember all those preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation: the Confirmation candidates I mentioned above, the adults and youth preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil – and our children preparing for their First Holy Communion. Below is a picture of a group of our children who made their First Confessions on January 20. And as I will mention in the homily this weekend, very soon we will begin the *Catholics, Come Home* television commercials. Please pray that during this coming Lent, many will hear the call to “Come Home.”

Finally, for prayer you might want to join our Cenacle group after Tuesday morning Mass, to pray to the rosary in English – and after the Thursday morning Mass to pray the rosary in Spanish. And for all our moms: Mom’s Night Out this Thursday, 7 p.m. in room 7. And this Friday evening (Feb 5) we have confessions from 7 to 8:45 p.m. followed by Mass and all night Eucharistic Adoration. The Mass and music is in Spanish, but of course all are welcome. Fr. Bill Peterson will be there this Friday for confessions and Mass.





Connor, Julie, Brianna, Elijah, Dylan, Emily, Milo, Tessa, Joshua, Blaire, Catherine, Kaycee