

It's good to be home after the week in southern Oregon with Fr. Jim Coleman. We stayed at the Sacred Heart Parish in Medford and saw seven plays in the Ashland Shakespeare Festival. It so happened that the Fourth of July weekend was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival. A Medford company named "Harry and David" was giving out free cupcakes to those attending the Festival.

There is nothing quite like seeing a live performance of a play, especially when done by the fine repertoire of actors they have at Ashland. I recommend the experience, although a person might want to be selective about which plays they see, especially if they go with a family. I am no drama critic, but below is my rating of the plays we saw.

When I returned from Ashland on Monday, I realized that I am now in my second year as your pastor. St. Mary of the Valley is a wonderful parish and I am happy to be here. I appreciate the welcome and support that you have given me this past year. The year has gone quickly, but we have accomplished a lot together. Thank you for your Stewardship of time, abilities and financial resources. I am impressed by the many volunteers in maintaining our grounds and buildings – and your active involvement in all of our parish programs.

This week we begin a new section in the bulletin. Along with the weekly collection results you will notice a comparison indicating how we are doing in relation to our parish budget. As Austin Mitchell and Alex Tapia explained on the last Sunday of June, we need an average of \$5,886 each week to meet realize our parish goals. Our parish mission is to bring Christ's saving love through worship, sacraments, religious education and service. With your help we can maintain our fine parish facilities and programs – and make them even better.

We also have goals that are not included directly in the parish budget. For example, our St. Vincent de Paul Society asks your help each month to assist the needy. For the next ten months I will also be asking your help for our parish delegation to World Youth Day. On the first Sunday of each month we will have a basket in the sanctuary for that purpose. Thank you to all who donated last Sunday. A total of \$473.65 was given.

Related to World Youth Day is the Shrine of Our Lady that I will be placing in front of the rectory this month. The Shrine is made possible by donations in memory of my brother-in-law, Alex Bielaga Bloom. His name, along with one parishioner from St. Mary of the Valley, will be mentioned on a small memorial plaque. As I have indicated in recent weeks, I want this shrine to be a vehicle for prayer for departed loved ones. I have envelopes in the pews so that you can write down names of deceased family members or friends. All the names will be placed in a sealed capsule at the base of the shrine, which we will dedicate on July 25. This is a great opportunity to pray for healing of the family tree. That healing happens when we remember our immediate ancestors (parents, grandparents, etc.), give thanks to God for the good gifts we have received through them and pray for them, asking healing for negative tendencies that they may have brought into the family tree. From the Bible we know that we do not exist as isolated individuals, but as part of a communion. We have a commandment that says, "Honor your father

and mother.” When we are children we fulfill that commandment by obeying our parents (and those who stand in their place). When we are adults, we have a responsibility to care for our parents when they age. And when our parents die, we honor them by remembering them and praying for them. The shrine to Our Lady will be a way of focusing those prayers.

World Youth Day ties in with this shrine to Our Lady. I have asked young men going to World Youth Day to help me with this project (see picture below). Moreover, any donations related to the shrine will go to the World Youth Day fund. Anyone desiring more information about World Youth Day is welcome to attend our meeting this Thursday, July 15, at 7 p.m. in room 7. At this meeting we will review the plan and purpose of attending World Youth Day and talk about our fund raising events – especially the auction scheduled for August 6.

At the end of the month we have a great activity for youth and families – the Camp Outing at Gold Basin Campground. Please see the bulletin announcement for more information. Also on July 28 at 6:30 p.m. our Building Commission will meet.

As I promised, here are my ratings of the plays we saw at the Ashland Festival. Five stars means excellent, four good, three fair, two mediocre and one, skip it.

Pride and Prejudice \*\*\*\*\*

She Loves Me \*\*\*

Hamlet \*\*

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof \*

Merchant of Venice \*\*\*\*\*

Twelfth Night \*\*\*\*\*

Henry IV, Part 1 \*\*\*\*\*

Next week I will explain my ratings, especially why I gave Hamlet and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof such low marks.

Finally next weekend is the eighteenth anniversary of the death of Fr. Jon Frankovic. Many of you remember him for his years of service at our parish. He died at a young age from pancreatic cancer and St. Mary parishioners cared for him in his final illness. After the 9:30 Mass I will bless the Japanese Maple and refurbished sign in his memory (see pictures in Spanish section)



James, Ralph, Daniel, Steve, Fr. Bloom, Aaron, Adam - with statue of Our Lady  
- Miano, Mitchell (not pictured - Clayton Avalos)





FATHER  
**JON W. FRANKOVIC**  
IN LOVING MEMORY  
  
PASTOR  
FROM  
1983-1992