

After the 9:30 a.m. Mass this Sunday I will bless the Japanese Cherry tree and renovated plaque in honor of **Fr. Jon Frankovic**. He was pastor of St. Mary of the Valley from 1983 to 1992. He was only forty-nine years old when he died of cancer on July 19, 1992. It is hard to believe that eighteen years have passed since his death.

I remember Fr. Frankovic from seminary days. He was four years ahead of me and, although we never became close friends, we had many conversations. I remember him as a good man and something of a “free spirit.” He loved his motorcycle and often took it for long trips. Many of you have noticed the small Harley Davidson logo that Fr. Frankovic embedded in one of our stained glass windows! In the mid eighties Fr. Frankovic offered me hospitality when I was doing a weekend retreat here at St. Mary’s. I remember his Bezengi (barkless) dog that had the run of the rectory. When Archbishop Brunett asked me to become pastor of Monroe, I knew that the rectory would be able to accommodate Samwise. Apart from that, the weekend with Fr. Frankovic gave me an appreciation of his deep faith and his love for the Church. I am happy today to remember him and to join you in praying for his eternal rest.

Speaking of prayers for the deceased, next Sunday I will be dedicating the **Shrine to Our Lady**. The memorial plaque has this inscription: *“Blessed Mother Mary, welcome the souls of Alex Bielaga Bloom, Thelma Ann Moore and all our faithful departed loved ones.”* (See picture below.) **At the base of the statue I will be placing a memorial scroll with the names of your loved ones.** I asked Sr. Barbara to use her calligraphy talent to make this scroll. Please turn in your envelope this weekend or at the office during the week so we can get all the names of the scroll. No offering is required, but any donations will be used to support the St. Mary of the Valley delegation to World Youth Day.

On Thursday evening we had a wonderful meeting of our **World Youth Day** delegation. I have seldom seen so much positive energy in a group of people. We face a big challenge to raise the deposit and first payment by September 1, but I am convinced that (with your help) we will achieve our goal. To help a young person participate in this pilgrimage is one of the best investments a person can make. Please help us with our fundraising activities. If you have items to donate to the **August 6-7 Garage Sale**, please contact the parish office, 360-794-8945. If you are able to make a specific donation for our World Youth Day delegation, please do so as soon as possible. At present we have \$1,289.35 in our common World Youth Day fund (\$473.65 donated in the basket in the sanctuary, \$515.70 donated in relation to the Shrine of Our Lady and a special donation of \$300). The next six weeks will be crucial to our fundraising efforts for our World Youth Day delegation.

On a different topic, I was happy to see that the **Washington State Board of Pharmacy** is considering revising the rule that forced pharmacists to dispense “Plan B” (also called “emergency contraception” or “**the morning-after pill**”). It is important to know that this drug is more than contraception because it can work after conception has taken place. Conception is arguably the most important moment in our physical existence because at that instant we become

distinct beings – not extensions of our mothers or fathers, but a unique combination of both parents. To deliberately take the life of a newly conceived child is different from “birth control.” It falls under the Fifth Commandment that says, “You shall not kill.” That is, you shall not take the life of an innocent human being. And no one is more innocent than an unborn child.

Some people argue that it is OK to destroy an embryo because it is very small. But does size determine worth? Others say that the embryo is not a child because it has no arms, legs or eyes. But do these same people defend the life of a human embryo when tiny arms, legs and eyes appear (in the first and second months of gestation)? Do they defend the life of the baby when perfectly formed in the mother’s womb? If someone would protect a child five minutes after birth, why not five minutes before?

The bottom line is this: **Once a child is conceived, it does not belong exclusively to the mom. He or she belongs to God, and all of us (in varying degrees) have some responsibility for the child.** The mom and dad of course have the most responsibility, but also other family members such as grandparents, and from there all the rest of us in the human family. It is a shame that our society has given young moms the idea that their unborn children are pieces of property they can dispose of or keep according to their convenience. This heinous notion devalues human life and motherhood. The greatest earthly dignity that God has placed in our hands is the ability to bring into this world a child, each with an eternal destiny. For that reason I applaud the pharmacists who want no part in giving a young mom the instrument to destroy her own unborn child. Instead, we want to support that mom and dad so they can responsibly care for the child they have conceived.

Finally – this regards the other end of the life spectrum – we have the **funeral for Jon Bleha** this Thursday at 10 a.m. Jon and his wife, Sharon, have been parishioners of St. Mary of the Valley for the past fourteen years. I knew Jon and Sharon during my first years of parish ministry at St. Luke’s in Shoreline, and so this funeral has deep personal meaning and emotion for me. Our condolences and prayers go to Sharon and to their four children, Jason, Eliece, Emily and Paulette. As we pray for the eternal rest of Jon, I ask you to please also remember baby Angelito Chavez who died this week – and for his mom, dad and grandparents who attend our parish. Next Sunday we will bring all these prayers together as we dedicate the Shrine to Our Lady in memory of Alex, Thelma Ann and all our faithful departed loved ones.



Blessed Mother Mary,  
welcome the souls of Alex Bielaga Bloom,  
Thelma Ann Moore and all our  
faithful departed loved ones.



Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us, sinners, now and at the  
hour of our death. Amen.

Santa Maria, Madre de Dios,  
ruega por nosotros, pecadores,  
ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte. Amén.

-July 25, 2010  
Fr. Phillip Bloom, Pastor