

At our Masses this weekend I will be using the chalice of my brother-in-law, Alex Bielaga Bloom. As you might remember, Alex died almost four months ago (March 30). Since Alex was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, my sister, Melanie, received a chalice with Alex' name inscribed on it. Below is a picture of Alex with his Fourth Degree regalia. At that time Alex was that his illnesses made it impossible for him to take part in Knights of Columbus honor guards, so he handed on his sword and uniform to a young man.

After the 9:30 and noon Masses, I will be dedicating the Shrine of Our Lady in honor of Alex. The memorial plaque also includes Thelma Ann Moore, the deceased wife of a wonderful St. Mary of the Valley parishioner, Leo Moore. At the base of the Shrine I will be placing a container ? that holds the names of departed loved ones whom you listed on the special envelopes. I am most grateful to Sr. Barbara for her beautiful calligraphy in transferring those names to a memorial scroll. To pray for our deceased loved ones is part of our Christian duty. That prayer helps them in the purification, which is necessary in order to come into the presence of the All Holy One. The prayer also helps us because it brings peace, joy and healing to our family trees.

Besides entrusting these intentions to Our Lady this Sunday, our parish youth will be taking them to World Youth Day. We will take them to the tombs of Saints Peter, Paul, Francis and Clare. I know that our young people are very grateful for your support that makes it possible for them to participate in this life changing pilgrimage. As I write this bulletin, we have received \$ **1,108.55** donated in relation to the Shrine of Our Lady.

The month of August will be crucial for World Youth Day fundraising. On September 1, we will make the deposit and first payment for World Youth Day delegates. In order to accomplish this goal, on Wednesday evening I met this week with World Youth Day dads. Ten dads attended and we talked about the importance of their leadership. The following evening we had a meeting of the parents and youth who will be participating in World Youth Day. About forty people attended the meeting, and I was overwhelmed by their enthusiasm. We talked about the fundraising projects we will be accomplishing during the month of August. You can see them all on the August calendar included with this bulletin, and I would also like to list them here:

- August 6: Garage Sale – begins Friday at 8 a.m. and continues through Sunday morning.
- August 15: Food sale (“carne asada” etc.) – after the 9:30 and noon Masses
- August 21: Soccer tournament – begins at 9 a.m.
- August 22: Bake sale after morning Masses
- August 28: Parking for Monroe Parade – begins 6 a.m.
- August 28: Concert with local bands – 7-11 p.m. in parish hall
- August 29: Parish Picnic – after noon Mass, youth will sponsor activities for children

Please participate in these activities and support our parish youth – for example, by donating an item for the Garage Sale. You are also invited to directly support our delegation (or an

individual delegate). You can do this by placing a donation in the World Youth Day basket or by making a check to St. Mary of the Valley Parish and writing “World Youth Day” in the memo. Above all, we need your prayers and your encouragement. In the sanctuary, you will see pictures of our WYD candidates. Please try to meet a different candidate each weekend and let them know that they have your support.

One person who works hard for our parish youth is Sr. Barbara. By a wonderful coincidence, this Sunday is her 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of entrance into religious life. I will be giving her a special blessing at all Masses this weekend.

Final notes: This Wednesday (July 28) we have an important Building Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. in room 7. And I hope to see many of you at our Camp Outing at Gold Basin Campground. Please see the announcement for more information.

