

Today we celebrate **Pentecost – the Feast of the Holy Spirit**. This is an occasion for great joy - a joy deeper than any problem we might be facing. I know that some parishioners are dealing with problems of health, others have financial difficulties, some have worries about children or grandchildren – and all of us feel some anxiety because of the problems in our society, nation and the world. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit is greater than any present trial. In baptism we received the beautiful gift of the Holy Spirit. This Sunday we celebrate that greatest of all gifts.

Last Sunday we had a joyful celebration. At our 9:30 Mass, thirteen children received **First Holy Communion**. The presence of **Bishop Raimundo Revoredo** as celebrant made the Mass very special. Below is a picture of the children with Bishop Revoredo. The picture also shows Jan Gill and Jennifer Hoff who guided the children and parents in preparing to Jesus in the Eucharist. I also want to thank Kathy King for her excellent work in coordinating this program. The photo below shows Kathy with some of the wonderful ladies who helped in the reception after Mass. I have uploaded other First Communion pictures at:

<http://stmaryvalleybloom.org/stmaryalbum.html> On May 30 we have First Holy Communion at the noon Mass. I ask you to pray for those children and their parents.

This past week I met with three consultative bodies: Finance Council, Building Commission and Parish Council. The **Finance Council** prepared a proposed for the fiscal year 2010-2011. The new fiscal year begins on July 1. The **Parish Council** reviewed the budget and we will communicate to you the important details regarding our financial needs. Thanks be to God, I have a wonderful Building Commission. Its members are helping me coordinate volunteers to address the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and grounds. The **Building Commission** reviewed seventy-one (!) maintenance needs in our parish hall and church. Volunteers will do most of these repairs, but some will require an expenditure of funds. For example, the restrooms in our parish hall have experienced serious deterioration. I am hoping that we will receive a rebate from our Annual Catholic Appeal to address that urgent need.

Speaking of the Annual Catholic Appeal, we are getting very close to our parish goal. **In the bulletin you will see an insert with the names of those who have made their pledge**. If you made a pledge and your name is not name is not on the list, please let me know or call Anita in the parish office. If you have not yet made a pledge, do it now. I need your response. If you are not able to make a financial pledge, please pledge a prayer.

Archbishop Brunett sent us a very kind letter regarding last year's Annual Appeal. He mentions that at the closing date of the 2009 campaign, St. Mary of the Valley Parish had a shortfall of \$14,645.03. He said, however, that because of "extenuating circumstances" he has made a "one-time exception" to excuse us from this obligation. He closed with these words: "I am confident that with your renewed commitment to a strong 2010 Annual Catholic Appeal effort, your parish will not only reach its goal this year, but also achieve a parish rebate!"

I have posted the Archbishop's letter on the bulletin board. I ask you to not let down the Archbishop - and me. Please fill out your pledge if you have not yet done so. And, of course, if anyone wishes to add to their pledge, that help would be gratefully received!

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Trinity. My friend, **Fr. Jim Coleman**, will be visiting next weekend. A priest of the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, he currently works as a St. James Society Priest in Bolivia. For the past five or six years, Fr. Coleman and I have been going to the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. It will be nice to have Fr. Coleman accompanying the baptisms and First Communions next weekend.

This week we have two very important meetings: On Wednesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. (in room 7) I will meet with any youth or adults who desire more information on **World Youth Day**. I hope to take a small delegation from St. Mary of the Valley to this event, which Pope Benedict XVI will preside in August of 2011. On Thursday evening, at 7:15 p.m., our **Stewardship Commission** will meet. If you are interested in promoting Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure, please attend this meeting. Stewardship is at the heart of the Gospel. To put it simply, Stewardship is another name for salvation of souls.

Children (L-R): Katherine, Milo, Julie, Kaycee, Brianna, Tessa, Elijah, Joshua, Emily, Dylan, Blaire, Connor, Maya
Above: Jennifer Hoff, Bishop Raimundo Revoredo Ruiz, Fr. Phillip Bloom, Jan Gill



Maggie, Yolanda, Kathy, Sr. Barbara

