

As the song says, "My bags are packed and I am ready to go." Tonight I will be going to **Peru** with a delegation of ten people: Julia, Tom & Leah from our parish; David & Shari (long-time friends from Redmond), and three people from Port Angeles: Dan, Rodger and Janet. You will see them in some of the pictures I will send from this visit to Peru. Please keep us in your prayers that we will have a safe and productive visit. You of course will be in my daily prayers. I am especially grateful to **Fr. Bill Peterson**, O.M. .I., for celebrating weekend Masses while I am in Peru. Fr. Peterson will also be here this Friday evening (October 1) for Mass and confessions. All parishioners may take advantage of this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Speaking of sacraments, we had a very good **Liturgy Commission** meeting on Wednesday. We made plans for the Masses and other liturgies in the fall, Advent and Christmas. I am grateful to all those who work to make our liturgies beautiful. The word "liturgy" means "work of the people." As a parish and as individual Christians, our most important work is worship of the Father, through Jesus our Savior, in the Holy Spirit.

We have other work to do that relates to our central mission – to glorify God. On September 18 we had our first **Parish Fix-It Day**. About fifty volunteers worked with our Building Commission to make necessary repairs and to improve our grounds. I was especially grateful for the help of young men from the Boy Scout group, which our Knights of Columbus helps support. Five of the Scouts are pictured below. The major task of the September Fix-It Day was to remove the diseased tree to the south of our church. You will see a picture of Juan Gonzalez, as he finishes the final part of bringing down the tree. A crew worked with Juan to remove the tree branches and blocks. I will have a few more pictures for next weekend's bulletin. I am grateful and proud of the work of so many volunteers to maintain our buildings and grounds. I would like to express a special word of gratitude to the ladies who worked with Sr. Barbara in cleaning the church: Olga Gonzalez, Sheila Palaruan, Georgene Bump, Pat Leland, Herlinda Vallejo, Epifania Montiel, Sharon Roloff, Theresa Boutillier, DeOzhane Holland, Elizabeth Holland and Patti Halliburton.

That same Saturday, September 18, we had another beautiful event: the **80th birthday of Virginia Dickmeyer**. Below is a picture of Virginia with Sr. Barbara. I also have a nice three generation picture that I will put in next weekend's bulletin. Virginia and her family have been important members of St. Mary of the Valley for many decades. This week I received an album showing the construction our church and hall, back in the early 70's. Besides the Dickmeyer family, it shows a number of other families who are still very active in our parish. The album is precious and I hope to be able share some of the pictures and newspaper articles with you in future bulletins.

Please keep our **World Youth Day** delegation in your prayers. We now have forty people inscribed for this pilgrimage. In next weekend's bulletin, I will have some information about the fund raising activities to send this delegation to Rome, Assisi and Madrid in August of 2011. Of the forty members of the delegation, thirty are youth and young adults. Thank you for your prayers and support of them. These young people have made a commitment to reach out to other youth of our parish – and beyond – so that World Youth Day will be a beautiful personal experience as well as an opportunity for evangelization. We had a great World Youth Day meeting on Thursday evening. For next Sunday's

bulletin I will have information on World Youth Day activities – and how other parish youth can take advantage of this experience.

I appreciate your **Stewardship** of Time, Talent and Treasure to our parish. As you can see, we had a great collection last weekend! One of the first things on my agenda, after getting back from Peru (October 22), is to mail a **quarterly report** to all who made identified donations to our parish between July and September of the current year. The mailing will include a brief financial report from the past fiscal year (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010) as well as the budget for the present fiscal year.

You will notice in this Sunday's bulletin an excellent article by **Fr. James Schall, S.J.**, on moral relativism. This is one of the biggest challenges our young people (and let's be honest, all of us) face in living the moral teachings of Jesus. We will be addressing this issue in our **Generations of Faith** evenings. I am very much looking forward to them. The first Generations of Faith on "Living the Moral Life" will be October 27, beginning with a delicious dinner at 5:45 p.m. Also I invite you again to participate in the RCIA classes that Sr. Barbara and I will teach.

Finally, I ask you to keep in mind that October is **Respect Life Month**. A number of parishioners are participating in **40 Days for Life** in front of Everett's Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. Next Sunday, the members of **Gabriel Project** will make a special presentation and invite you to join them in a novena of prayer. You are invited next Sunday to join the **Life Chain** at Everett Mall Way at 3rd Ave SE, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. You may contact Arlene Noyes, 425-778-0258, for more information. As you pray for deeper respect for each human life, I ask you to remember the **Mary Bloom Center** – a pro-life medical clinic and educational center serving the people of Puno, Peru.

Scouts: Kiel, Scotty, Kees, Nick, Tilly





