

This week I sent out the **quarterly reports**. I am always moved by the generosity of those who financially support our parish. Many of our families are struggling and we need to work together for the good of all. As I signed the quarterly reports, I prayed for each individual household. It is of utmost importance that we maintain accurate financial records so if you notice any error, please contact Anita or me at the parish office. If you made an identified donation (envelope, check or electronic fund transfer) between January 1 and March 31 and you did not receive a letter from me, please let me know.

Besides financial Stewardship, I am deeply grateful for your **Stewardship of Time and Talents**. We saw that yesterday in the many people who participated in the Spring Clean. With the coordination of our Building Commission and Parish Council, we are able to utilize volunteers to achieve an enormous amount of necessary work.

We are facing some significant projects that require a financial investment, in addition to the work of volunteers. **One of the major projects is the renovation of the restrooms in our social hall**. We have begun that work and, God willing, they will be in service by Easter Sunday. I have placed on my bulletin board some pictures that show the need for this renovation. Other projects that we hope to address are the kitchen and carpet in the social hall building - and the playground area. When we have the Annual Catholic Appeal presentations in May, I hope to give you fuller information about these projects.

In order to properly care for and maintain our parish facilities, I have reorganized our custodial services. **Michel Belcher**, who worked for St. Mary of the Valley for many years, will continue to devote eleven hours a week to this work. In addition, we are very fortunate to have the services of **Cathy Lenac**, who does custodial work for the school district. Cathy will work ten hours a week and will do the overall coordination of the cleaning, repair and overall maintenance of our buildings and grounds. I am grateful to the Building Commission, Finance Council, Hispanic Leadership Group and Parish Council who have provided consultation as we address the physical needs of our parish.

**We will continue to rely on volunteers for ongoing cleaning, maintenance and good order of our parish facilities**. As anyone who keeps a home knows, it requires many hours of work to maintain a home in good order. St. Mary of the Valley is home to a large and flourishing family and it requires the efforts of all to keep it beautiful and welcoming. Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure makes this possible. Our parish **Stewardship Committee** is highlighting a ministry on the third Sunday of each month. This weekend we will have the blessing of our music ministers. I am deeply grateful to them for their commitment of Time and Talent (and their personal financial resources) so that we can have beautiful music to worship God. If you have interest in music ministry, please contact an active music minister.

This week we begin the great celebration of **Holy Week**. I encourage you to participate in the central events of this week: Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper, Good Friday Veneration of

the Cross and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening. You will find the full schedule of Holy Week services in this bulletin.

A special devotion I encourage you to consider is the **Divine Mercy Novena**. It will have a particular significance this year. Pope John Paul II promoted devotion to the Divine Mercy, he died on the eve of Mercy Sunday and this year Pope Benedict will beatify Pope John Paul, precisely on Mercy Sunday (May 1). The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday and concludes on Mercy Sunday. We will say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every afternoon at 3 p.m., beginning this Friday. At the entrances of the church you will find copies of the Divine Mercy Novena.

One of our particular prayer intentions is for **Bishop Tyson**. I am sure you have heard that he has been assigned as Bishop of Yakima, beginning on May 31. As you know, he was pastor of St. Mary of the Valley from 1993 to 1996. He has a big job as bishop of central Washington and he certainly needs our prayers. The picture shows Bishop Tyson at the March 19 Theology of the Body Retreat.



We of course continue to pray daily for Archbishop Sartain and Bishop Elizondo. When we begin the **Annual Catholic Appeal**, we will hear more about the overall needs of our archdiocese – as well as some specific needs of our parish (as I mentioned above).

On a lighter note, a number of people think that I look a lot like our new Archbishop. As you can imagine, it works to my advantage – I get a lot more respect from people who either mistake me for **Archbishop Sartain** or who aren't quite sure. On the other hand, it seems to work against him. Below is a picture of **Sister Barbara** apparently shaking her finger at the Archbishop. I can only assume she thought she was talking to me!



The picture of Sister Barbara and the Archbishop was taken at our **Deanery Mass** last Monday evening. After the Mass, some of the St. Mary of the Valley parishioners gathered with me for a picture.

Dr. Tom Nancy Sr. B. Fr. B. Kay Ranelle Rvan Alane



A few final announcements: **World Youth Day** delegates and supporters will meet this Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. This entire week the **Hacienda Restaurant** (620 SE Everett Mall Way) will give a 10% rebate to enable a brother and sister to attend this pilgrimage. You may pick up a flier at the church entrances. I have posted part of the Hacienda menu on my bulletin board and invite to join me on Monday evening at 5:15. (After the dinner, I will be going to the Penance Service at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in case any want to attend.) And for a bit of fun and to raise funds for World Youth Day, we will be raffling some seats for Easter Sunday!

And a final recommendation: Buy, beg or borrow a copy of Pope Benedict's *Jesus of Nazareth* (Part II) – wonderful reading for Holy Week and the Easter season.

May the Good Lord bless you and your family in this most important of all weeks!