

**Welcome to Lent.** I would like to start off this bulletin column with something small, which ties in with some aspects of this season. Some have noticed that we do not have purple chalice veil. The reason is not Lenten austerity, but that when I purchased chalice veils in Peru last October, I only had limited amount of funds. I was only able to purchase white and green chalice veils. When I return to Peru after Christmas I hope to obtain veils with the other liturgical colors: purple, red and rose.

The chalice veil is something small and although it is not required, it was never officially eliminated. **Many parishes are restoring the use of the veil as a way of highlighting the chalice which contains the Precious Blood of Jesus.** During the season of Lent we remember that a single drop of Jesus' Blood can take away even the worst sin.

This Lent we have some beautiful activities that will help us focus on God's Mercy. Many people from St. Mary of the Valley will be participating in **40 Days for Life**. Members of our Hispanic Community will be praying in front of the Everett Planned Parenthood abortion clinic on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. I invite you to join me, Sister Barbara and other St. Mary of the Valley parishioners on Thursdays at 3 p.m. In addition our parish youth are planning a specific prayer time. You can learn more and sign up for a specific hour at:

<http://www.40daysforlife.com/everett/>

Even if you are unable to directly participate in 40 Days for Life, I ask you to **pray for young women and men tempted by abortion**. As Fr. Frank Pavone observed, "Though men cannot have abortions, they can choose abortions. A sin is committed when somebody willingly and knowingly chooses a moral wrong. *If, then, a man suggests or pressures his partner to have an abortion, he has committed the sin of abortion.*" For him it is a way of evading responsibility for his behavior. Taking the easy way out, however, has long range consequences - and men, as well as women, can feel a need for post-abortion healing which includes repentance and forgiveness through Sacrament of Reconciliation.

A wonderful way of praying for those tempted by abortion is the **Spiritual Adoption Program** that our Knights of Columbus are sponsoring. The program will begin on March 25. Our Knights of Columbus will have materials for us next weekend. Related to Spiritual Adoption is the **Gabriel Project**. You will be hearing more about as we advance in the season of Lent.

Next Saturday our youth will be attending the **Theology of the Body Retreat** at Holy Family Parish in Seattle. We now have over 50 registered. I do need more adults for our carpool. If you can help, please speak with Maggie Beatte or with me.

Speaking of youth activities, our World Youth Day delegates are sponsoring a "**Senior Prom**" on March 26. It is not for high school seniors, but for those who have received their AARP invitation! We will have a band that will play the kind of music us older folk like to listen to.

Other WYD activities are the Friday evening **Lenten Soup Nights** and the April 2 **Fun Run** at Lake Tye Park. Below are pictures from recent WYD activities: Rebecca Boll, winner of the Chili Cook-Off and Armando Gonzalez, who won the February 27 raffle.

Monroe Pastors invite you to special event: the premiere of **Appalachian Dawn** on March 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Galaxy Theater. The movie is for adults and mature teens. See the bulletin board posters for more details.

Please say a prayer for our combined **Hispanic Leadership** and **Parish Council** meeting this Thursday. We have very important items on the agenda. At this meeting I hope to share some of the personal vision I have for 2011-2012. More on that for next week's bulletin.



