

During this month of August I will be focusing on consolidating our parish delegation to **World Youth Day**. We have a September 1 deadline to make the deposit and first (of eight) payments. This month we will be doing a number of fundraising projects, beginning with the **Garage Sale**, which opens this Friday at 8 a.m. We can still receive your Garage Sale items this week in room 7. Your support and prayers will make the Garage Sale and the other World Youth Day projects successful.

Many of you received a letter about the importance of World Youth Day to our parish. In the letter I explained why supporting our parish youth delegation is one of the best investments a person can make. **Their own families of course will make the biggest investment, but I want to also give you an opportunity to show your support for our youth by prayer and, if you are able, by making a financial contribution.** You have been magnificent in responding to the new parish budget that we inaugurated at the beginning of July, and I am proud of your concern for the poor in supporting the work of our St. Vincent de Paul Society. I know that many of you will want to support our parish youth both by prayer and financial assistance. For your convenience we have the basket for first Sunday of the month donations – and you will find World Youth Day envelopes at the church entrances. For more information, click on the “World Youth Day” link on our parish website. We also have a **Facebook page** for St. Mary’s WYD 2011 Delegates.



Supporting parish youth are our Knights of Columbus. Among the many charitable activities they undertake is the **Knights of Columbus Scholarship** for Catholic education. You can pick up an application form at the church entrances. Applications must be received by August 15. Please see Dominik Thomeyer or Grand Knight Austin Mitchell for more information.

On Wednesday we had a very productive meeting of our **Parish Building Commission**. Scotty Cragrud made a proposal for his Eagle Scout project, which he will be elaborating and presenting at our September 16 Parish Council meeting. We also reviewed the maintenance projects completed to date (we will have a list of completed projects in an upcoming bulletin). Many more projects remain, and we decided to have a “**Parish Fix-It Day**” on the second Saturday of each month beginning in September. Building Commission members will meet at 7 a.m. for a (no-host) **breakfast at the Hitching Post Café**. The Parish Fix-It will begin at 8 a.m. (Sept 11). All hands are welcome.

I want to again thank all those who participated in the dedication of the **Shrine of Our Lady** last Sunday. We received about a thousand names of departed loved ones that Sr. Barbara transcribed in a beautiful and prayer manner. Copies of the names are on the bulletin boards, which our youth will take to Rome, Assisi and Madrid next August. A total of \$1,632.55 was donated to help our World Youth Day delegates.

At the Masses last weekend I used the **Knights of Columbus chalice** given to my sister, Melanie, in honor of her husband, Alex, who was a Fourth Degree Knight. We also have a Knights of Columbus chalice given in memory of Fr. Jon Frankovic. I hope to eventually use these chalices for administering the Precious Blood at weekend Masses. If anyone in the parish has a Knights of Columbus chalice, I would gratefully receive it and use it with care and devotion at our parish Masses.



On August 21 at 10 a.m. we have **training for altar servers**. After the training, servers and their families will want to take advantage of the Soccer Tournament that same day.

On August 26 people throughout the world will mark the **100th Birthday of Blessed Mother Teresa** of Calcutta. I encourage you to wear blue and white in honor of the twentieth century's greatest woman. We all owe a debt of gratitude to her and as Catholics we can take pride in her marvelous example. In our parish lending library (in my office) we have a couple of books on Blessed Mother Teresa. If you do an on-line search for "Mother Teresa" at the Sno-Isle Libraries website, you will see nineteen titles.

A good way to begin a month in honor of Blessed Mother Teresa is to make a good confession. I will be available for **confessions this Friday from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. and from 10 p.m. until all are heard**. Also I am in the confessional 45 minutes prior to each weekend Mass.

On a fun note, Sr. Barbara and I went to see "**A Midsummer Night's Dream**" by Monroe's theater group Last Leaf Productions. They preformed the play in an hour and a half, with no intermission and they held the attention of children as well as adults. It was a labor of love by non-professional, but quite competent actors. You could hear and understand them well even in the outdoor setting of Lake Tye Park. Although they did not have the elaborate sets of the Ashland Shakespeare Festival, they did have a virtue that sometimes the professionals in Ashland lacked: They approached Shakespeare humbly with no apparent personal agendas. I was disappointed at the Ashland Festival that they tried to update "**Hamlet**," supposedly to make it "relevant" to a modern audience. For example, instead of swearing on the cross, the Ashland production had Hamlet and his companions cut their hands to exchange blood. In Shakespeare's original script a priest quietly states the Christian teaching regarding suicide. It was a hard teaching even in Shakespeare's day, but in the Ashland production, an infuriated university student drives the priest from the stage! Rather than trying to get into Shakespeare's world (which was imbued with Christian values) they tried to impose a secular agenda on him.

Of the seven plays that Fr. Coleman I saw in Ashland, a second one disappointed us – their updating of the American classic “**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.**” But I will save that for next week. I am not a drama critic and I go to plays mainly for entertainment, but still I recognize they have great power to shape public thinking. For that reason, it is worthwhile not only to see plays, but to reflect critically on them. I hope my reflections might help parents and others in their discussions with young people.

This coming year, as we prepare for World Youth Day 2011, I hope to read some books and perhaps see a movie or two with our young people. There are some wonderful books (and movies) on St. Francis of Assisi. Even if a young person is not going with us to Rome, Assisi and Madrid, I would very much want them to take part in this preparation and to be “**virtual pilgrim.**” During August we have some great activities. In this bulletin you will find a print-out of the August parish calendar, which is also available on-line at <http://www.stmaryvalley.org/> I try to update it often and to add pictures, so please refer to it for the latest parish news.