

In spite of less than perfect weather, we have had a great summer here at St. Mary of the Valley. Before saying goodbye to summer, I wanted to share a few memories from my parish picture album. They captions are bilingual, and the pictures continue in the Spanish section. They are not meant to be inclusive of all events, but to represent some of the ways God has blessed us these past months.

Baptism of Pieter, Parents: Vince and Anna, along with grandparents, Chris and Jan Kloeck and Laura (aunt & godmother)



Blessing of Marriage - Rasamy & Stanlynne, Tyler, Shanden & Noah



Wedding of Garret Ascherl & Heather Marie Green with Pastor Steve Whalen and Fr. Steve Rowan



Youth Retreat (June 25-27) Retiro Regional de Jovenes



James, Ralph, Daniel, Steve, Fr. Bloom, Aaron, Adam (with statue of Our Lady), Miano, Mitchell - July 8



Quinceañeras: Alexis, Stephany, Cintia, Kimberly July 17



Blessing of Japanese Maple & renovated sign in honor of Fr. Jon Frankovic, 18th anniversary of death (July 19, 1992), Servers: Aaron, Elliott, Nick; Mateo & Bella Barajas, who donated tree



Shrine Dedication (July 25) Scroll with names of faithful departed loved ones



Melanie and Leo after Shrine dedication



Arielle, Ralph, Sr. Barbara, Stephanie, Ryan – at Parish Camp Out



World Youth Day Auction - Sr. Barbara, Maria, Martha & Christopher



Youth and adults after prayer service to place the memorial scroll at base of Shrine of Our Lady, August 12



Merrill Gardens: Tom S., De'Ozhane, Fr. Bloom, Freda, Leo, Mary, Anneke, Marjorie,
Elizabeth, Gerald, Theresa, Norma, Mildred



(Catholic residents not pictured: Bob, Arnold, Keith, Mary Jane, Dolly, Wanda & Tom P.)

Monroe Cup Soccer Tournament - Future Champion – August 21



Baptism of Zahira, August 22



Wedding of Jorge & Fatima – August 28



World Youth Day Concert, August 28



Parade Parking - Eloisa, Adam, Samwise & Peter



Parish Picnic- Anne, Alicia & Nan, August 29



The pictures in our parish album (<http://stmaryvalleybloom.org/stmaryalbum.html>) help me to pray. John Cardinal Newman (who Pope Benedict will beatify on his visit to England this month) had pictures of his friends in his chapel. While he prayed he looked at one or other

picture to remind him of the person. I have tried to do something similar with the parish album. With Sister Barbara's help I hope to have pictures of most of our parishioners and of significant events in our parish life. If you have a good picture from a parish event, please pass it on to me.

Finally, a reminder of important events this week: Knights of Columbus, Tuesday evening, Stewardship Commission on Wednesday, and Parish Council on Thursday. Your prayers are appreciated as we bring summer to a close and begin a new school year.