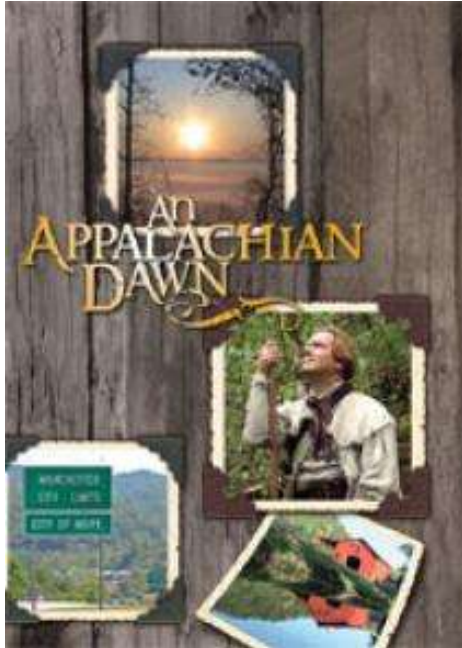


On Wednesday evening we had a nice group participating in the **Rite of Election** at St. James Cathedral. (see picture below) Archbishop Sartain prayerfully led the service and gave an excellent homily based on the Scripture readings for the First Sunday of Lent: The temptation and fall of our first parents – in contrast to the temptation and triumph of Jesus. Archbishop Sartain emphasized that the goal of Lent is reliance on God. During these forty days we accompany our catechumens and candidates as they prepare for the Easter Sacrament – and all of us prepare for the renewal of our baptism. At the Rite of Election the archbishop individually greeted each candidate and catechumen. And it was all accomplished with no applause! The focus was clearly on God and our need for Him.



Dennis, Evelyne, Tina, Donna, Fr B, Victoria, Sr. B, Lisa, Rick, Bryan, Sheila and Lee

This Tuesday in Monroe we have an event that exalts God's power: the premiere of **Appalachian Dawn** at the Galaxy Theaters. I encourage you to attend. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the movie begins at 6:30. It is PG-13 and is appropriate for mature teens and adults. You can find more information on my new bulletin board in the north corner of the church (by the doors that lead to the parish hall).



Speaking of our local community, I was very pleased that the **Monroe Correctional Complex** has reopened for religious services. I will be there this coming Thursday for Mass and Confessions. I appreciate your prayers for staff, inmates and those who volunteer at the prison. You may have noticed that the *Catholic Northwest Progress* did an article on Monroe prison ministry.

I thank all who are participating **40 Days for Life**. Members of our Hispanic Community are praying in front of Everett Planned Parenthood abortion clinic on Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. You are also invited to join Sr. Barbara, myself and other parishioners on Thursdays at 3 p.m. In addition, Yolanda Alexander, Alicia Thomeyer and Diana Bizak leave from St. Mary of Valley every Monday at 9:30 and on Saturday mornings, from 10 to 11:30, Bryan and Sheila Palaruan pray in front of the Everett Planned Parenthood. You can find more information and sign up for a time at: <http://www.40daysforlife.com/everett/>

This prayer for those tempted by abortion is at heart of the season of Lent. Fr. Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life, made this reflection:

*“The traditional practice of ‘giving something up for Lent’ is a practice of self-denial. It means we say no to ourselves and yes to God and others. This reverses the pattern of sin, particularly abortion, which says yes to ourselves and no to God and others.”*

Our society presents abortion as a “woman’s choice” – as if the man has nothing to do with it. The reality is that, although men cannot have abortion, they can choose abortion by cowardice, selfishness and lack of responsibility. If we are going to move from a culture of death to a culture of life, we need men who are strong, protective and respectful.



That was part of our goal at the **Theology of the Body Retreat** yesterday at Holy Family Parish, Seattle. I thank all of you who prayed for our young people and supported them at that important event.

I would also like to thank the couples who participated in the first session of the **Marriage Workshop** at Perpetual Help Parish in Everett. The second session will take place next Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adult singles, as well as married couples, are welcome. Call Casey Ross, 425-349-7014 for more information.

And while I am thanking people, I want to mention the Knights of Columbus Tom Radford, Austin Mitchell and Oscar Rodriguez who gave the presentations last weekend regarding **Spiritual Adoption**. We will begin the program this coming Friday, March 25. Please place your adoption card in the basket in our sanctuary.

Next Saturday evening we will have our "**Senior Prom**." Please join Sr. Barbara, myself and other seniors at this event sponsored by our parish youth. The following Saturday, April 2, you are invited to take part in the **Fun Run**, beginning 9 a.m., at Lake Tye Park. Finally, I ask you to please mark your calendar our **Lenten Penance Service** on April 13 and for our annual **Spring Clean** on April 16, which is the Saturday before Holy Week.