

**One of the advantages of the Annual Catholic Appeal is that it helps us appreciate our relationship with the Archdiocese of Seattle.** This week I would like to mention a couple of aspects of that relationship. Probably the most obvious is the formation of seminarians. Priests do not fall from the sky. They are men called by God who receive five or six years of training after graduating from college.

On June 11, Archbishop Sartain ordained **five new priests**: Frs. Brian Ochs, Michael Wagner, Paul Brunet, Brad Hagelin, and Dwight Lewis. I ask you to pray for them. One of the new priests has been assigned here in Snohomish County – Fr. Michael Wagner will be the new parochial vicar of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Everett.

For the last fifteen years I have had the privilege of serving on the **Seminarian Review Committee**. Each candidate fills out a questionnaire, writes a short autobiography and undergoes an extensive psychological exam. After reading this material we interview the candidate and make a recommendation to the archbishop. I can assure you that we have an effective screening process for those who will serve as diocesan priests. At the same time, I am constantly humbled to glimpse how the Holy Spirit works in the lives of young men being called to the priesthood.

The training of seminarians and the ongoing formation of priests is one of the major parts of the Annual Catholic Appeal. I would like to mention another service of the archdiocese that affects all of us: the **Hospital Chaplaincy Program**. I was made very aware of this vital ministry last week when Archbishop Sartain blessed the new **Providence Cymbaluk Medical Tower** (picture below). The Everett Herald did a nice article on the ceremony. In case you did not see the article, I posted it on the bulletin board.

Prominent at ceremony was **Fr. John Rashford, S.J.**, who serves as chaplain at Providence Hospital in Everett. He is part of a team of chaplains that minister to the sick in hospitals throughout our archdiocese. **If you have a friend or family hospitalized in Bellevue, Seattle or any other part of Western Washington, be sure to have them ask for the Catholic chaplain.** Some of the chaplains are priests like Fr. Rashford, others are trained lay people. Our lay chaplains can offer prayer and Holy Communion for those who are hospitalized. And of course, they are able to contact a priest if the patient asks for confession or anointing of the sick. The Archdiocese of Seattle coordinates and supervises hospital chaplaincy, therefore this is a ministry made possible by your donations to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Regarding this essential ministry, I would like to say a word about our local hospital. As pastor of St. Mary of the Valley, I have responsibility for spiritual care of Catholic patients at Valley General Hospital. Sr. Barbara works closely with me in this ministry and we have Communion ministers who can bring the Eucharist to the sick and as Viaticum for those who are dying. **If you or someone you know is being admitted to Valley General Hospital, please contact me for anointing of the sick.** We often celebrate the anointing of the sick at our 9 a.m. daily Mass.

Those who attend daily Mass appreciate the opportunity to pray for and encourage those who are facing a major illness.

While speaking of services offered at our parish, I would like to mention something near and dear to my heart. **I very much want to baptize your children or grandchildren!** Please talk to Sr. Barbara or me about what is involved in having a child baptized. Last weekend we had the baptism of little Julia Caruso. Below is picture of her after the baptism. As you can see, her brother Pieter is showing me one of his toys while his parents, Vincent and Anna Caruso look on.

We had our **Parish Council** meeting on Thursday. In next week's bulletin, I will give short report on some of the areas we discussed. As we enter into summer time (if summer ever does arrive) we have many important activities in our parish, especially relating to youth. I will keep you posted. May God bless you for your support of our parish and archdiocese by your gifts of time, abilities and financial resources.

Some final invitations: Support our youth by coming to **Bingo** after the 5 p.m. Mass on June 18. Next weekend we will have also an invitation to **become an altar server**. Consider sending your child to **CYO Camp** or attending a Family Camp this summer (information at church entrances and online at: <http://seattleooyam.org/programs/cyo-camp-services/summer-camp/2011-programs>) Sign up now for our **Parish Camp Out** July 8-10. Set aside July 18-25 for **Vacation Bible School**. And for high school students and young adults – the **Spiritus Northwest Retreat** in Spokane (July 23-24). A kind parishioner has donated scholarships for this retreat (see Meri, Amy or me for more information). For more parish information, please refer to our **online calendar**: [http://www.stmaryvalley.org/calendar\\_en.shtml](http://www.stmaryvalley.org/calendar_en.shtml)

Providence Cymbaluk Medical Tower



Archbishop Sartain blessing helicopter on roof of Providence Medical Tower



Baptism of Julia Caruso: brother Pieter showing a toy, with parents Anna and Vincent.

