

Father Paul's Weekly Email (April 26, 2024)

In this coming Sunday's gospel Jesus compares himself as the vine and his followers, the branches. Another practical metaphor from nature that preachers sometimes use for the church is geese. They can teach us much about teamwork.

- Geese fly together, they share a common goal and direction. Geese fly in a perfect V formation. Flying in this way and using this kind of "teamwork" adds 71% more flying range for the geese than if they flew on their own. The lesson – people who share a common goal and direction can get where they are going much faster and much more efficiently, because they benefit from the momentum of the group.
- Geese stay in formation. Whenever a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly tries to get back in formation. The lesson – stay together and work together. Synergy cannot be created by a single person working in isolation, so it is important to stick together.
- Geese rotate roles, they encourage the leader and empower others to lead. For the lead goose in the formation, drag is high. When the lead goose in the formation tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose takes its place. The lesson – it is important to share the load amongst team members. Expecting one person to take on all the work is unrealistic, people work better when interdependent with one another.
- Leave no Goose behind. When a goose gets sick or wounded, two other geese drop out of formation and then follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with the goose until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch back up with another formation or catch up with their flock. The lesson – stand by each other in difficult times.

Too often we attempt to go it alone in the spiritual life. We would do much better at our faith if we acted in concert with other believers. We need one another's help. The Christian life, said one master, isn't hard to live. It's impossible with Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's grace and one another. Blessed Sacrament Parish needs you and everyone now more than ever.

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Parish website	https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org	
Faith in West Virginia	https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/	
This Sunday's Readings	https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/042824.cfm	
Wednesday Bible Handout:	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/bible-share-05-01-24/?wpdmdl=1737&refresh=662c0a57f3dee1714162263	
This Sunday's Bulletin	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/april-28-2024/?wpdmdl=1740&refresh=662cod5491b5a1714163028	

Blessed Sacrament Symposium

This Sunday from 10:15 am until 11:15 am in the church, Molly Linehan-Belcher, Terry Matthias, Mary Odin, and Fr. Paul present *The Mystery of Suffering and Evil: Part 3*. It will be live-streamed, too. Please come even if you missed Parts 1 and 2. We will discuss the two most helpful suggestions in dealing with the question “Why do bad things happen to good people?” If time permits, suggestions will be made about how to deal with suffering. If not, Part 4 will focus on this.

Noteworthy News

Please don't forget we have a **SUGGESTION BOX** in the gathering space. Feel free to make suggestions or point out things that might be done to welcome visitors.

Also, kindly check out our new Volunteers Corner in the Gathering Space. We always can use help and these projects are short-term commitments.

MYSTIC MORSELS

Be careful and attentive to all the matters God has committed to your care: since God has entrusted them to you, God wishes that you have great care for them. Do not be worried, that is, don't exert yourself over them with uneasiness, anxiety and forwardness. Don't be worried about them, for worry disturbs reason and good judgment and prevents us from doing well the very things about which we are worried in the first place.

–Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

It is such folly to pass one's time fretting, instead of resting quietly on the heart of Jesus.

–Saint Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)

POEM Alchemist

Do you see
how mountains erupt out of oceans.
Do you see how tears can make a flood,
 but from the depths we still emerge.
Do you see how seasons fill their purpose,
 though we might prefer the sun benign.
Do you see how everything is clearer,
 and cleaner for the rain.
Do you see how nothing in Nature
 is without design or reason.
That everything has its cause
 and effect.

And though circumstances appear random,
God works in us,
amazing alchemist,
for our benefit. — Ana Lisa de Jong

Carbonated Grace***

A man comes upon a shepherd guarding his flock and proposes a wager: "I will bet you \$100, against one of your sheep, that I can tell you the exact number in this flock," the man says. The shepherd accepts. "973," says the man. The shepherd, astonished at the accuracy, says "I'm a man of my word; take the sheep you have won." The man picks a sheep and begins to walk away. "Wait," cries the shepherd, "Let me have a chance to get even. Double or nothing that I can guess your exact occupation." "Sure," replies the man. "You work for the Tax Bureau," says the shepherd. "Amazing!" responds the man, "How did you deduce that?" "Well," says the shepherd, "if you will first put down my dog, I will tell you."

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *Carbonated Grace*.