

Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - August 30, 2024

Last year, Catherine Stodola began exploring the possibility of joining the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. On the Feast of The Holy Cross she and three other women will become Postulants or candidates. This is a time (1-2 years) of discernment of whether God is calling the Candidate to take the next step and make temporary vows as a Carmelite Sister. She is a member of Our Lady of the Hills Mission in Elkvew. Here is an excerpt from a recent letter. In it she writes about three important things she has come to know so far. She shares:



1. God does not expect us to be perfect. He loves us and calls us exactly as we are and simply wants us to be with Him and allow Him to work in and through us. The fact that He has called me to be His alone even though I am little actually allows His love and mercy to shine through all the more. There is no need to be discouraged by encountering our imperfections or weaknesses because He already knows them all and loves us in exactly those places. Actually, praise God for our weaknesses because they lead us to a greater dependence on Him and greater intimacy! I am far from perfect, but I am loved by Jesus & that is what matters most.
2. I do not need to worry about what the future holds or struggle with whether or not I am finding God's will because He always provides. He is a good and loving Father and brings us exactly what we need when we need it. I do not need to be constantly seeking in the distance for God's will or how best to love and serve Him because it is right in front of me. By simply being present and striving to love the best I can, I am doing what He desires. His grace is in the present, so I just want to stay with Him and be open and attentive, receiving all with gratitude. I am so grateful for the ways He has been helping me to grow in trust and surrender. There are definitely still ways I grasp for control and desire to know exactly what He is doing, but overall, He has helped me to experience greater peace and freedom that comes from more complete reliance on Him.
3. I desire to grow so much in so many things – prayer, virtue, healing, surrender, love, and more. It could be easy to feel overwhelmed by how long the road is ahead of me, but I am not walking this road alone. Jesus is with me always and delights in taking each step with me. There is no reason to be overwhelmed because the work is His. I am simply His instrument, and He will lead me to the ways He wants me to grow and serve. If I can shift to viewing my life as simply being with the One I love rather than a project of reaching holiness, I will be much more joyful, and I will become who He created me to be.

Cards of encouragement and prayers may be sent to Catherine Stodola;
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<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

OUR YOUTH will be **BACK IN FULL SWING** on Thursday evening, September 5 from 5:00-6:00pm, beginning in the Gathering Space. Everyone in grades 6-12 is welcome. The Blessed Sacrament Youth Group is a powerful workforce for Christ and His church: last year, we participated in 28 different service projects, fueled mostly by prayer and also by leftover foodstuffs and treats we find in the Parish Hall refrigerator each week. On September 5, we have been charged to serve the Blessed Sacrament community by consuming all the remaining ice cream from Vacation Bible School, so come join us! Parents and siblings are always welcome.

INQUIRY GROUP BEGINS SOON

The purpose of an Inquiry Group is to help those considering Baptism or entering into Full Communion with the Catholic to understand the basics of what the Catholic Church teaches and why. Here at Blessed Sacrament Parish the Inquiry Group begins on Monday, September 09 at 6pm in Room 5. For more information or to register please text, email, or call

1. Natalie Zellers at bsccwv@gmail.com or (304) 744-5523
2. Tommy Ross at rossondixie@gmail.com or (304) 590-5003
3. Father Paul at pjw424@gmail.com or (304) 433-7472

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION IS COMING SOON

One way to help our children grow in faith is to give them the experience of learning about Christ and His teachings with their peers through our Faith Formation classes. On Sunday mornings, our children gather with wonderful catechists to break open the Sunday readings and learn more about being a Catholic and a follower of Jesus. Our Faith Formation year begins on Sunday, September 29, 2024, with an orientation and “meet and greet” with the catechists, beginning at 10:15 a.m. Classes will begin on Sunday, October 6 at 10:15 a.m. Sign up this weekend in the gathering space or email Theresa O’Leary (mtoleary93@gmail.com).

WHY I AM CATHOLIC

First and foremost, I am Roman Catholic because it is my roots; I was born to Sicilian-American parents who baptized me and raised me Catholic. A few years back during a time of tragic loss, I felt a strong push to commit wholly to a spiritual practice. I had been away from the Church for close to 20 years. It felt natural to return to the Church that had been such a strong influence throughout my childhood and adolescence. I am Catholic because there is always an open door. I’m extremely thankful for that.

As life's tragic and joyful experiences mount, it has been good for me to be part of this massive faith community. Unlike Wall Street, the Catholic Church has stood her ground for thousands of years. I am Catholic because I believe being Catholic is living in solidarity and knowing in mind, body, and spirit that diversity is essential for growth and sustainability. I think of this when sharing the sacred meal of the Eucharist with billions of people each week. I am also Catholic because of how tradition and sacred scripture are honored each and every day, and I know my prayers are shared and integrated with the prayers of so many others. I find solace and peace in being Catholic because I know there is power in our collective prayer and worship.

But most importantly, I am Catholic because the time, talents, and treasure of our local and global community combat poverty and overcome social injustice internationally. Our broken world needs collective love, prayers, attention and advocacy and I know I cannot solve the world's problems alone.

I am Catholic because I know the Church will never abandon me or lead me astray, and because I know I cannot walk life's path alone. Being part of this amazing global body of believers is a glorious blessing to me.

I am Catholic because it is who I am and it is who God wants me to be.

Elizabeth Falzone

CARBONATED GRACE

During a fire at a convent, a group of nuns are trapped on the third floor. Thinking quickly, they took off their habits, tied them together and used them as a rope to climb down from the window. After safely reaching the ground, a reporter asks, "Weren't you worried that the habits would have ripped as you were climbing down? They look old and worn." "Of course not!" said one of the nuns. "Don't you know how hard it is to break an old habit?"

PLEASE KNOW and REMEMBER

I will **NEVER** ask anyone to buy gift cards for me to give away.

I will **NEVER** be stuck in a foreign country since I have no Passport.

I will **ONLY** send you an email from pjw424@gmail.com

I will **ONLY** text you from my cell phone (304) 433 7472

NO Blessed Sacrament Staff member will **EVER** ask you to buy a gift card for them.

Only do so, if he or she asks in person and puts the cash in your hand!