
Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - August 9, 2024

In late May or early June 1982, I was in the back of Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg waiting for the Notre Dame High School Baccalaureate Mass to begin. Several priests and servers were there as well. A soon-to-be graduate politely welcomed everyone and continued, "Please join in our opening song *Sing a New Song*." This song had been around for only ten years at that time. A Franciscan priest Fr Tim Arsenault leaned over and whispered, "For God's sake I wish they *would* sing a new song!"

More than 40 years later, this memory comes to mind most times this song is sung. In his July 9, 2024 *Thought for the Day*, Catholic Blogger Donald R. McClarey identified this song as the Worst Catholic Hymn. To be honest I can think of many others more deserving of the dishonor. The reason I dislike the song is that we are singing to each other and not to God like all songs of praise ought to do.

For my first twenty years as a priest, I named a 1966 Ray Repp song *Here We Are* as the worst Catholic Hymn. I am not sure which is sappier, the tune or the lyrics.

Here we are, altogether as we sing our song joyfully.
Here we are, altogether as we pray we always be.

Let us make the world an alleluia.
Let us make the world a better place.
Keep a smile handy, have a helping hand,
Let us all join in and sing.

Here we are, altogether as we sing our song joyfully.
Here we are, altogether as we pray we always be.


Since then, I decided another song is worse. It is like hearing chalk squeaking on chalkboard or someone chewing ice cubes. I won't say what that song is for two reasons: it might be one of your favorite songs; and I don't want Mary Odin to schedule it! On a more positive note, let me or Mary Odin know what hymns your favorites are. It would be good to know.

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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/081124.cfm	
Wednesday Bible Handout	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/bible-share-08-14-24/?wpdmdl=2027&refresh=66b6333b0832d1723216699	
This Sunday's Bulletin	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/august-11-2024/?wpdmdl=2028&refresh=66b6333aeb101723216698	

Attention Please

GOOD NEWS. Both entrances are now open. The little asbestos there was has been removed. The air tests clean in the Old School. The installation of the new flooring begins on Monday, August 19. So this coming week is an ideal time for VOLUNTEERS to **PAINT** the walls.

Thursday August 15 is the **FEAST** of the **ASSUMPTION** of the **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**, a holy day when those who can are obliged to come to Mass. Mass will be at 12 noon and 6pm.

Hygiene Sunday	On the second Sunday of each month, parishioners are encouraged to donate hygiene products (especially sanitary napkins, shampoo, deodorant, and tooth paste and brushes). Our Tith Fund uses monetary donations to purchase items for these kits. A hygiene kit is used to hold personal care items that clean, comfort, and groom a person's body. Our hygiene kits are used by women and men in addiction recovery or emergencies.
	

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church with the **POSSIBILITY** of **BECOMING CATHOLIC** (if so desired), please call or text Deacon Tommy Ross (304) 590-5003 or Fr. Paul Wharton (343) 433-7472. There is an informal get together for everyone interested on **Monday, August 12** at 6pm in the Parish Hall. Please use the entrance on the North Side of our facilities.

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, with all your sweet and precious favor.
Come, Lord, to convince and comfort me, to humble and direct me,
to chill my affections to the world, and to warm them toward the Lord Jesus.
Come, you holy, gracious, almighty reviver and restorer —
and glorifier of my God and Savior!
Cause the graces you have planted in my soul to go forth
in a way of love and desire, faith and expectation.
Let me hope in the person and glory of the one my soul loves.
—Robert Hawker

MYSTIC MORSELS Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

- Every part of the journey is of importance to the whole.
- Life is to live in such a way that we are not afraid to die.
- However softly we speak, God is near enough to hear us.

CARBONATED GRACE

A young pastor was sitting in a restaurant eating lunch. He opened a letter he'd just received that morning from his mom. As he opened it a twenty-dollar bill fell out. He thought to himself, "Thanks, Mom, I sure needed that right now." As he finished his meal, he noticed a beggar outside on the sidewalk leaning against the light post. Thinking that the poor man could probably use the twenty dollars more than he, he crossed out the names on the envelope and wrote across the top in large letters, **PERSEVERE!** So as not to make a scene, he put the envelope under his arm and dropped it as he walked past the man. The man picked it up and read the message and smiled. The next day, as the pastor enjoyed his meal, the same man tapped him on the shoulder and handed him a big wad of bills. Surprised, the young pastor asked him what that was for. The man replied, "This is your half of the winnings. Persevere came in first in the fourth race at the track yesterday and paid thirty to one."