

FEBRUARY 14, 2025



This Sunday's Gospel includes the Beatitudes in which Jesus speaks about those who are *happy* or blessed. I am reminded of an old fable from years gone by. Said a puppy to his old uncle dog. From my short experience in life I have learned that the best thing for a dog is happiness and that happiness is in my tail. That is why I am chasing my tail, and when I catch it, I shall have perfect happiness." The old dog replied, "From my research and long experience, I too, have judged that happiness is a fine thing for a dog and that happiness is in his tail. But I've noticed that whenever I chase it, it keeps running away from me, but when I go about my business, it comes after me."

Dr. Harold Treffert is the director of the Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Wisconsin. In an article entitled *The American Fairy Tale*," Dr. Treffert discusses five dangerous ideas we have about the meaning of happiness.

- First, happiness is *things*. The more you accumulate and have, the happier you will be.
- Second, happiness is *what you do*. The more you produce and earn, the happier you will be.
- Third, happiness is being the *same as others*. The more fashionable you are and conform with the times, the happier you will be.
- Fourth, happiness is *mental health*. The fewer problems you have and the more carefree you are, the happier you will be.
- Fifth, happiness is *communicating with electronic gadgets*. The more time you spend with a television set, a phone, computer, Play Station or tablet, the happier you will be.

According to Dr. Treffert, these five myths about happiness are the cause of many mental health problems today. If happiness cannot be found through these five myths of *The American Fairy Tale*," then where do we find it? Jesus gives us the answer when he outlines the beatitudes in Sunday's reading from The Gospel according to Luke.

I used to hear people say about someone who made a questionably-at-best choice or one with possibly dire outcomes, "I guess it's okay, as long as they are happy." Here's one thing making me happy these days: the number of parishioners who completed The Disciple Maker Index Survey. More about that in the future. Thank you very much.

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Email:	pjw424@gmail.com
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/021625.cfm
Wednesday Bible Handout	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/bible-share-02-19-25/?wpdmdl=2249&refresh=67af5182943321739542914
This Sunday's Bulletin	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/february-16-2025/?wpdmdl=2251&refresh=67af5182845131739542914

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Do You Love Me?

A Practical Guide to Catholic Prayer & Spirituality
facilitated by John Shawler and others

SUNDAY MORNINGS 10:15 am - 11:15 am In our School Room 2

February 23 — Searching
March 02 — Pancake Breakfast
March 09 — Recognizing
March 16 — Experiencing
March 23 — Conversing
March 30 — Following
April 06 — Choosing

Do You Love Me? is a short booklet created by the Catholic Bishop s Conference of England and Wales. It uses the Resurrection Appearance in John 21:1-22 to explore the treasure of Catholic Prayer and Spirituality. Copies of the Booklet will be available.

Read one chapter **before** each session.
Reflect on what you have read.
Write answers to a few questions.
Be prepared to share your thoughts, experiences, and ideas.

This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare yourself spiritually for Holy Week and Easter.

PLEASE REGISTER by signing a sheet of paper in the Gathering Space or online by emailing John Shawler johnshawler@gmail.com This is also available here on line — <https://cbcew.org.uk/plain/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/11/do-you-love-me-2014.pdf>

MYSTIC MORSEL

Some people have a belief that every tree, when it burns, gives back the colors that went into its making. They see in the flaming logs the red of many sunsets, the purple of early dawn, the silver of moonrise, and the sparkle of stars. So it is with us: what we have accepted in our hearts in faith and made a part of our lives is given back in times of trial.

— Fulton Sheen



POEM

God Who formed the world
in all its glory –
and its brokenness –
entrusted it to us:
a jigsaw, incomplete –
a sweep of endless hues
and incomparable design.
We stand before Him,
with all our shades
of dark and light,
and He has faith that each of us
will add the absent piece.
– Elizabeth Topper

PRAYER

We praise You, Lord, that You searched for us in Your humility.
We praise You, Lord, that You kept us in Your mercy.
We praise You, Lord, that You adored us in Your humiliation.
We praise You, Lord, that You provided for us in Your generosity.
We praise You, Lord, that You watched over us with Your strength.
We praise You, Lord, that You made us good with Your goodness.
We praise You, Lord, that You taught us in Your intimacy.
We praise You, Lord, that You lifted us up in Your love.
–Mechthild of Magdeburg (Thirteenth Century)

CARBONATED GRACE

Teachers know what this seminary satire tells of what happened when Jesus finished naming the parables. . .

Then Simon Peter said, "Are we supposed to write this down?"
And Andrew asked, "Are we supposed to know this?"
And James asked, "Will we have a test on this?"
And Phillip said, "I don't have any paper."
And Bartholomew asked, "Do we have to turn this in?"
And John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn this."
And Matthew asked, "Can I go to the boys' room?"
And Judas asked, "What does this have to do with real life?"
And Jesus wept.