



FATHER PAUL'S WEEKLY EMAIL



SPECIAL EDITION

February 2, 2024

It is often difficult and time consuming to write a letter every week with what I hope will be an interesting topic. I have been away on vacation. When I received Rabbi Victor Urecki's weekly email to his congregation, I thought I would allow him to preach a good word to my readers. He is wise, holy, and a man of God whom I admire and am inspired by. Here is Rabbi's message.

"He made ready his chariot and took his people with him." (Exodus 14:6) Pharaoh had regretted his decision to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt. And now when he heard that the Israelites appeared lost by the edge of the wilderness, he ordered his elite corps of 600 chariots and additional troops to bring them back. "He made ready his chariot."

Most understand the Torah text as saying that it wasn't really Pharaoh who rushed to the stable to harness his horse and prepare his chariot. Kings would never degrade themselves with such trivial tasks. "He made ready" simply means he called for his servants to ready his chariot for battle. But a rabbinic legend teaches us that Pharaoh actually readied his own chariot. Pharaoh was filled with such rage at the Israelites that he broke royal protocol and demeaned himself by going to the stable and preparing his own chariot. He was so blinded by his hate that he forgot who he was in the eyes of others. Hate will do that to someone. Because hate knows no bounds. May our hate never consume us as it did Pharaoh.

But the rabbi also wisely reminds us that we are capable of more than just hate. When Joseph heard that his father Jacob was arriving from Canaan, "he made ready his chariot." (Genesis 46:29). Joseph, as Prince of Egypt, also had servants to prepare his transportation to greet his father. But the rabbis teach us that Joseph's heart was filled with such love knowing he would be reunited with his father, that he insisted on harnessing his own chariot. Love will also do that to someone. Because love knows no bounds.

May our love for others be like Joseph.

- Rabbi Victor Urecki

To which I say, "**Amen! Amen!**"

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This Sunday's Readings

Cell: (304) 433-7472 Email: pjw424@gmail.com
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020424.cfm>

+ Blessed Sacrament Symposium +

JEANNE HAAS is presenting a talk on Lent & Holy Week on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 10:15 - 11:15 am in the Church. It will be live streamed & saved for later viewing. It will help us prepare for the coming Season of Lent.

The **SOUPER BOWL** of **CARING** began in 1990 to help those in need. This weekend and the weekend of the Big Game, the youth of Blessed Sacrament invite you to bring cans of soup, boxes of crackers, and/or virtual soup (\$1 = 1 can) donations to help our brothers and sisters who are hungry in West Virginia. You can root for your favorite team, the Kansas City Chiefs or the San Francisco 49ers, or you can root for the commercials by placing donations on your team's table in the Gathering Space.

PRAYER

O my God My soul's compassion
My heart's precious friend I turn to You.
I need to close out the noise
To rise above the noise
The noise that interrupts —
The noise that separates —
The noise that isolates.
I need to hear You again.
In the silence of my innermost being,
In the fragments of my yearned-for wholeness,
I hear whispers of Your presence —
Echoes of the past when You were with me
When I felt Your nearness
When together we walked —
When you held me close,
embraced me in Your love,
laughed with me in my joy.
I yearn to hear You again.
In Your oneness, I find healing.
In the promise of Your love, I am soothed.
In Your wholeness, I too can become whole again.
Please listen to my call—
help me to find the words
help me find the strength within
help me shape my mouth, my voice, my heart
so that I can direct my spirit and find You in prayer
In words only my heart can speak
In songs only my soul can sing
Lifting my eyes and heart to You.

O Lord —open my lips, precious God,
so that I can speak with You again.
— Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman

MYSTIC MORSEL

Growing spiritually can be like a roller coaster ride.
Take comfort in the knowledge that the way down
is only preparation for the way up.
— Nachman of Bratzlav (1772-1810)

Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement.
...get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted.
Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually.
To be spiritual is to be amazed.
— Abraham Heschel

CARBONATED GRACE ***

On a very windy day, a rabbi was walking along when a strong gust of wind blew his hat off his head. The rabbi ran after the hat, but the wind was too strong. It kept blowing his hat farther and farther away. A non-Jewish young man, seeing what had happened, ran after the hat, caught it and gave it back to the rabbi. The rabbi was so grateful that he gave the young man 20 dollars and blessed him. The young man was so excited that he decided to go to the race track and with the rabbi's blessing, he decided to check the program and place the entire 20 dollars on a horse. After the races he went home and recounted his very exciting day to his father.

"I arrived at the fifth race and looked at the program. I saw this horse named 'Top Hat' was running. The odds on this horse were 100 to 1 but since I received the rabbi's blessing I bet the entire 20 dollars on 'Top Hat' and guess what? He won!" "In the next race, there was a horse named 'Bowler' at 30 to 1 so I bet the entire amount of my winnings on him, and guess what ... I won again!"

"So did you bring the money home?" asked his father. "No," said the son, "I lost it all on the last race. There was a horse named 'Chateau' that was a heavy favorite so I bet everything on him, and since 'Chateau' means 'hat' in French I figured he was a sure thing." "You fool!" said the father. "Hat in French is 'chapeau' not 'chateau!'" Sighing to himself, the father then asked, "So who did win the race?" "A real long shot," said the son. "Some Spanish horse named 'Sombbrero'."

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*

PLEASE KNOW

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 puts the cash in your hand!