

# B.S.P. WEEKLY EMAIL — January 9, 2025

THE **FIRST** PART IS A REPEAT OF LAST WEEK'S EMAIL

My first thought when all priests in West Virginia received an October letter about a special this Evangelization Program Bishop Mark Brennan is requiring each parish to do was this: "I am going to retire **NOW**." My next thought was: "We priests are already not able to do everything we are supposed to do now. Why are you giving us a major project to do?"

If you are on the parish or diocesan email list, you may have read a letter from Bishop Mark Brennan outlining a diocesan-wide program under the guidance of the Catholic Leadership Institute. Then I took the time to see a presentation about this for West Virginia priests and made a deep dive into their website. I realized this program has *exciting potential* for both Blessed Sacrament Parish and the Diocese.

In the conclusion of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Jesus commissions all disciples to share the gospel with everyone everywhere. There is a great need to evangelization here in West Virginia. Seven out of ten West Virginians are unchurched: they neither belong to nor attend a church. My guess is that about half the Catholics in West Virginia no longer attend more than once or twice a year. There is a great harvest out there.

It is hoped that Parish Leaders and Staff will come to a better understanding of the needs, wants, and ideas of as many parishioners as possible through a 75-question inventory called the Disciple Maker Index Survey. The aim is to

- invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
- enable parish staff and leadership to make data-driven decisions.
- help parishioners grow in their faith.

**Take the DMI survey now by clicking the link below:**

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/x1a236>

- Your input helps strengthen our parish.
- Results help leadership prepare for the future.
- A report on the findings will be shared later in the spring.

If you prefer to complete a paper copy, we have planned four sessions after Mass with our Survey Coordinator, Jackie Lilly, where you will have an opportunity to provide your input.

Sunday, January 12 after 11:30 Mass

Thursday, January 16 **before** the noon Mass and **after** Lunch Bunch

Saturday, January 18 after 4:00 Mass

Sunday, January 26 after 9:00 Mass

Your participation in this survey is important to the future of our parish. A two-year program will be developed providing ways to share the light of faith with those around us including lapsed Catholics.

Father Paul

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Parish website

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Faith in West Virginia

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<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>

#### 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 Tithe 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.



## Announcements and Reminders

**LUNCH BUNCH** - Thursday - Mass at noon - Lunch Follows - All are welcome.

**PRAYER** Whom Shall I Fear?

Lord, you are my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

What can this world and those who live in it possibly do to me?

They cannot take away my life, for my life is hid in Christ with God,  
and to be absent from the body is to be present with you.

They cannot steal my joy, for in your presence is fulness of joy,  
and you will never leave me or forsake me.

They cannot threaten my security, for my trust is in you;  
all other hope is sinking sand.

They cannot thwart my purpose, for to live is Christ, to die is gain.

They cannot assault my dignity, for I am a child of the King, the living God.

They cannot make me homeless, for I have a building from God,  
a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

They cannot take what is most precious to me on earth,  
for they are also hid with Christ in God,  
and though we may be separated,  
we will be together in eternity.

Lord, you are my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

— Bob Hostetler

## **CARBONATED GRACE**

Once a priest parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 100 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note. "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."