



# FATHER PAUL'S WEEKLY EMAIL

January 19, 2024

The Creation Story found in the first chapter of the Hebrew Scriptures we Christians know as the Old Testament declares that human beings are created *in the image and likeness of God*. Most of us read or hear these words without considering what they mean. Some believe it means we are like God in the sense we have souls and are ultimately spiritual beings. God has created us with a spiritual hunger and thirst God alone can satisfy; nothing – no thing – can fulfill this God-given desire.

What this suggests to some spiritual writers is that our invitation and responsibility is to become more like God. We are born as men and women created with the potential to make a difference in the lives of other people. Growing in the characteristics of God is a responsibility that can become a joy. Here are just a few possibilities.

- We have the ability to **CREATE** whether we think so or not. This is expressed in art, writing, cooking, gardening, and countless other ways.
- We can become and be **COMPASSIONATE**. It isn't always easy, but when we reach out to care for those in need of comfort, support and assistance, we do the work of God
- Our **GENEROSITY** and **HOSPITALITY** not only to people we know, but to strangers but to strangers is not only helpful to them, but us as well.
- Our ability to **LOVE** and be **LOVED** is the greatest means of all because *God is love* and the way of love is *a still more excellent way*.

One final thought are these words of Saint Catherine of Sienna (1347-1380). *Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire.*

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Phone: Office (304) 744-5523    Cell: (304) 433-7472    Email: [pjw424@gmail.com](mailto: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/012124.cfm>  
Wednesday Bible Handout <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/en/download/bible-share-01-24-2024/?wpdmdl=1587&refresh=65abeb239d6bf1705765667>  
This Sunday's Bulletin

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## Headlines and Happenings

January 28 between Sunday Masses In-Person, **VIRTUS CERTIFICATION** Training Opportunity. All volunteers must be certified. We do this for the sake of the children.

Jeanne Haas will provide an **ADULT FORMATION** opportunity on *Preparing for Lent and Easter*. This will happen in the worship space between Masses 10:15 - 11:15 am on February 4th. It will be recorded and available for replay on the Internet.

### **POEM**                      The World We Make

We make the world in which we live  
By what we gather and what we give,  
By our daily deeds and the things we say,  
By what we keep or we cast away.

We make our world by the beauty we see  
In a skylark's song or a lilac tree,  
In a butterfly's wing, in the pale moon's rise,  
And the wonder that lingers in midnight skies.

We make our world by the life we lead,  
By the friends we have, by the books we read,  
By the pity we show in the hour of care,  
By the loads we lift and the love we share.

We make our world by the goals we pursue,  
By the heights we seek and the higher view,  
By hopes and dreams that reach the sun  
And a will to fight till the heights are won.

What is the place in which we dwell,  
A hut or a palace, a heaven or hell,  
We gather and scatter, we take and we give,  
We make our world-and there we live.  
— Alfred Grant Walton

### **MYSTIC MORSEL**

Before God, each human being  
is always unique and unrepeatable,  
somebody thought of and chosen from eternity.  
— Saint Pope John Paul II



Now is the winter of our discontent, Made glorious summer by this sun of York.  
— William Shakespeare (from Richard III, spoken by Gloucester)

### **CARBONATED GRACE \*\*\***

One day a preacher went to his monthly meeting with the elders and presented an idea that he believed he had received from God. After giving his most impassioned plea and really “selling” the idea to the elders, they voted down the preacher’s proposed changes 12-1. The elder leading the meeting said to the preacher, “Sorry, but it looks like the only vote you received for your proposal was the vote you cast for it.” The elder continued, “Well, that’s all we had on the agenda tonight.” So he asked the preacher to lead a prayer to close the meeting.

The preacher, not wanting to give up on an idea that he felt God had given him, lifted up his hands to heaven and prayed with all his heart, “Lord, I know my brothers and sisters here do not have the same vision that you have given me. Please help them see that this is not my vision, but that it is your vision. Please give us a sign. In Jesus name, AMEN!”

Immediately, a lightning bolt with a loud clap of thunder burst in through the window in the meeting room, striking the table, splitting it in two and knocking all the elders to the floor. As the dust cleared, the preacher looked at the elders and said, “So, what do you think now about my proposal now?” The lead elder, dusting himself off, sighed and said, “Well, I guess that’s 12 votes to 2, still not enough to pass your proposal.”

\*\*\* Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*