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## Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - July 26, 2024

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The story is told of a barber who wanted to witness his faith to others. He took a class on *How to Share your Faith* and was trained on questions to ask, things that needed to be said to lead people to Christ. One of the questions was: “If you died right now would you be ready to meet God?” So, he began thinking of ways that he could get people to listen to him. It occurred to him that when customers were sitting in the barber chair, it was a perfect time to witness. A man came into the barber shop and asked for a shave and a haircut. The barber prepared to shave the man. He put lather on his face and got the razor out. Just before the barber started to shave the man, he worked up the courage to start the evangelism plan. The barber turned to the man, razor in hand and asked: “If you died right now, would you spend eternity with God?” The man was so scared that he jumped up from the chair and ran out of the barber shop with the lather still on his face.

You and I are meant to be witnesses! We are called to be living witnesses sharing with others what God means to us. A witness is one who communicates the truth. Evangelizing is part of being a follower of Jesus. Can your faith be a priority in your life, if no one knows about it?

Why do most people, especially Catholic, not share their faith?

- Lack of knowledge - Don't know how. Your best tool in witnessing is your own personal story. Tell others how God has blessed you.
- Lack of courage - Don't have the guts. Trust that the Holy Spirit will help you. Jesus promised to be with us always. The only way to overcome fear is to do what you are afraid to do.
- Lack of concern - Don't realize the need. The attitude of most Christians today is that of Cain after he murdered Abel. When God asked Cain where Abel was, what did he say – Am I my brother's keeper? Often, we believe that we have no responsibility to those around us. God has placed you where you are to make an impact for Him.
- Lack of faith - Don't believe that God can use them. But the Bible and some 2,000 years of Church history teach us can, does, and will empower often some of the least likely people to do great things.

Here is an example of witnessing and sharing faith from singer and actor Harry Connick, Jr. “When I go to Mass or have any feelings at all about the Catholic Church, it's an area I feel comfortable with because I know it well. Since I was a kid, I've gone to church with my dad and sister. I think that's the number one reason I feel comfortable: It's familiar to me. And then there's the message, which is always a beautiful message of love and acceptance, and that also makes me feel very comfortable.”

*Father Paul*

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## Attention Please

Beginning Monday, the South Entrance to the Church will be sealed off until August 17. All entry to the Church will be through the North Entrance. **Please consider making the North Parking spaces available for Parishioners who may need assistance getting into Church.** The South Parking lot will still be open. The parish Business Office will be relocated to the Community Room. Parish Office will be operated under normal hours. Asbestos abatement will start in old School and Parish Offices.

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.

### **POEM**    Lightening the Load

The first thing we have to do  
is to notice  
that we've loaded down this camel  
with so much baggage  
we'll never get through the desert alive.  
Something has to go.

Then we can begin to dump  
the thousand things  
we've brought along  
until even the camel has to go  
and we're walking barefoot  
on the desert sand.

There's no telling what will happen then.  
But I've heard that someone,  
walking in this way,  
has seen a burning bush.  
— Francis Dorff

## **CARBONATED GRACE**

The enlightened man laughed lightly, sat down next to the boy and began to try to open the boy's eyes to the realities of the miracles of the Bible. "That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown that the Red Sea in that area was only 10-inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across." The boy was stumped. His eyes wandered from the man back to the Bible laying open in his lap. The man, content that he had enlightened a poor, naive young person to the finer points of scientific insight, turned to go.

Scarcely had he taken two steps when the boy began to rejoice and praise louder than before. The man turned to ask the reason for this resumed jubilation. "Wow!" exclaimed the boy happily, "God is greater than I thought! Not only did He lead the whole nation of Israel through the Red Sea, He topped it off by drowning the whole Egyptian army in 10 inches of water!"