



Father Paul's Weekly Email

July 5, 2024

Wimbledon is to tennis what the Masters is to golf: an exciting tournament and celebration of tradition. All tennis games, sets and matches begin with a serve. Without the serve, the game of tennis is nothing. Generally, the better the serve, the better the game. Tennis is all about serving.

And without the serve, our Christianity is nothing. It is all about service. In life as in tennis, it is not a question of *whether* service is going to happen; it is only a question of *whom* we are going to serve and how *well* it will be done. Bob Dylan got it right with his song, "Gotta Serve Somebody:" *"Well, it may be the Devil, or it may be the Lord, But you re gonna have to serve somebody."*

Perhaps this is what Jesus had in mind when he said, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth" (Matthew 6:24).

For Christians, service should not be is an issue. It is essential. After all, Jesus himself set the record straight on the importance of service and the need to excel at it:

- "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).
- "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve" (Mark 10:43-45).
- "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me ... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

Blessed Sacrament is always in need of altar servers, especially children and youth (perhaps even a parent or a single person. Vacation Bible School is coming soon. We rely on volunteers to work and ambassadors who can spread the word to welcome children to a celebration of faith, fellowship, and food. If you have not already signed up, please do so now.

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523
Parish website
Faith in West Virginia
This Sunday's Readings
Wednesday Bible Handout
This Sunday's Bulletin

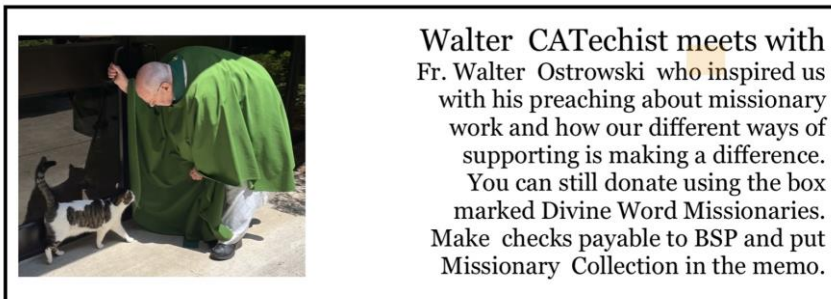
Cell: (304) 433-7472. Email: pjw424@gmail.com
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/070724.cfm>

POEM

That All May Live

Now you know
that things are bad and beautiful,
that devastation happens
on a blue green planet.
Children are born,
health is challenged,
food is toxic, water unclean,
beauty deprived.

So, now that you know,
ponder the question:
What am I called to do?
Purify the poison,
heal the alienation,
embrace each other on the journey,
fulfill your own purpose,
that all may live.
Yes, that all may live.
— James Conlon

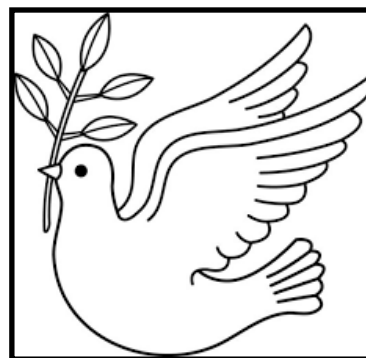


Walter CATEchist meets with Fr. Walter Ostrowski who inspired us with his preaching about missionary work and how our different ways of supporting is making a difference. You can still donate using the box marked Divine Word Missionaries. Make checks payable to BSP and put Missionary Collection in the memo.

PEACE PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
 where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,
 grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



CARBONATED GRACE

Two brothers had terrorized a small town in Alabama for decades. They lied, they cheated, they stole and they were two of the sorriest persons in the entire town. Then, one of the brothers died unexpectedly. The surviving brother went to the pastor of the local Baptist church. He said to the pastor, "My brother has died and I want him to have a good church funeral even though he didn't really believe in church and all that stuff. And I want you to do his service." The pastor was getting uncomfortable when the brother also said, "And there is something I need you to say during this funeral. I want you to tell everyone that my brother was a real saint!"

The minister interrupted, "But he was far from that! I can't stand in my pulpit and lie to everyone in town. They know what a sorry person he was." The wealthy brother pulled out his checkbook and said, "Well, Preacher, I'm prepared to give your church \$50,000

right now. All you have to do is agree to say that my brother was a saint." After much thought, the pastor finally agreed. The whole town soon heard about the deal and they packed the church to hear what the pastor was going to say about this terrible man.

At the funeral service, the pastor began his sermon by saying, "Friends, here lies one of the sorriest persons who ever lived in this town. He cheated, he stole, he lied, he cussed, he got drunk and he was a womanizer. Folks, he truly was one of the sorriest persons who ever lived.....but compared to his older brother, who is sitting right here in front of me today, he was a REAL SAINT!!

PLEASE KNOW and REMEMBER

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 asks in person and puts the cash in your hand!