Blessed Sacrament Parish **June 6, 2025**

The risen Lord still bears the marks of his wounds inflicted in his passion and death. The Nicene names four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The experts on the PBS Antique Roadshow look for actual marks indicating when and where an antique was created. Many of us proudly wear hats, tee and sweatshirts, rings of a college or professional team we favor. Marcel LeJeune observes, “Being a disciple of Jesus should also show through in our lives (mark us), and much more deeply, in several ways. In fact, being a disciple of Jesus, marks our souls in three Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders) and changes our very being in others. Even outside of the Sacraments, our life of discipleship should be the primary marking in our lives.”

In one essay he identifies 12 marks of characteristics of Catholic disciple that show the world that we are genuine followers of Jesus Christ. They are benchmarks we need to achieve and are certainly worth reflecting on. Here are the first 6.

- Disciples are called - Luke 5:1-11 perfectly illustrates this, when Jesus calls his first disciples. God always acts first! Jesus came to the fishermen and gave them an invitation. It was only after this invitation to discipleship that our choice matters. Jesus has called each of us. The next step is...

- Disciples intentionally respond to Jesus' call - After we are called, then a disciple must respond positively to the call! If Peter had not dropped his nets (Luke 5:11) and followed Jesus, he would not be a disciple. You can't follow, if you don't make a choice. Discipleship is never inherited or accidental!

- Disciples love - This is a primary characteristic of a disciple. Love of God and love of others. Jesus says that others will know we are disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:35). Yet, how short we all fall. How can we better love our fellow Catholics? Our neighbors? Our families?

- Disciples are fruitful - In fact, Jesus says that being fruitful PROVES that you are his disciple. "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples" -John 15:8.

- Disciples are obedient - Go a little farther in John 15 and you find in John 15:14 - "you are my friends if you do what I command". Notice, we can't be called a friend of Jesus and remain in our disobedience. It is a non-starter.

- Disciples are taught - In Scripture, we constantly find the disciples of Jesus learning from Him. One example is Matt 13:10-17, when Jesus explains his parables to the disciples and not others. They listen and then implement the teaching in their lives (or at least attempt to). We too have to follow this model. The life of a Christian disciple is one of lifelong learning.

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523 Fr. Paul's Cellphone: (304) 433-7472.
Email pjw424@gmail.com
Parish website https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org
Faith in West Virginia https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/

Now Hear This

You are encouraged to wear **RED** or **YELLOW** this Pentecost weekend.

Blessed Sacrament will host a showing of the **MOVIE** "Conclave" in the Parish Hall on Sunday June 8 at 2:00 pm. Please invite friends and family to join us at this event. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The Dismas Club will provide drinks, popcorn, and candy. Theresa O Leary will lead a discussion group afterwards.

Blessed Sacrament Parish's longstanding and beloved tradition **CAMP LEON** is set for June 15 - 20 pm in Huttonsville. Kindly pray for the children, staff, and many volunteers to be safe, inspired, and energized. No camper is turned away if money is a problem. Donations to make this possible are appreciated. Be sure to write "Camp Leon" on your check made out to Blessed Sacrament Parish.

PRAYER

Teach me your way, O Lord
Teach me your way of treating others -
sinners, children, Pharisees,
Pilates and Herods,
and also John the Baptists.
Teach me your way of eating and drinking,
how to act when I'm tired from work
and need rest.

Teach me compassion
for the suffering, the poor, the blind, and the lame.
You who shed tears,
show me how to live my deepest emotions.
Above all, I want to learn
how you endured your Cross.

Teach me your way of looking at people:
the way you glanced at Peter after his denial,
the way you touched the heart of the rich young man
and the hearts of your disciples.

I would like to meet you as you really are,
since you change those who really know you.
If only I could hear you speak
as when you spoke
in the synagogue of Capernaum
or on the Mount of Beatitudes!

Give me grace to live my life,
within and without,
the way you lived your life,
O Lord.
— Pedro Arrupe, SJ

POEM

Paying attention
is the act of plunging
into the ocean of divine presence.
Paying attention
is the act of relocating divinity
within the depth of creation and self.
Paying attention evokes wonder,
and empowers us to do for others
that for which we pray.
— James Conlon

MYSTIC MORSELS

The day will come when,
after harnessing space, the winds, the tides and gravitation,
we shall harness for God the energies of love.
And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world,
we shall have discovered fire.
— Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)

Pentecost calls us to the realization that the Center of all reality, the innermost Heart of all infinity, the Love of the all-holy God, has become our Center, our Heart. God is ours. God has been given to us as gift, without reserve. God has made our own the joy, freedom, knowledge and peace of the Divine life"
— Karl Rahner (1904-1984)

The Church of Christ is always, so to speak, in a situation of Pentecost:
she is always gathered in the Upper Room in prayer, and at the same time,
driven by the powerful wind of the Spirit, she is always on the streets preaching.
– Saint John Paul (1920-2005)

CARBONATED GRACE

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp-
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade.
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why's everyone so quiet,
So somber - give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'