



Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

May 12, 2023

Perhaps it comes from growing up with the NASA and the USA space program in the 1960's, listening to the countdown to launch: "T minus 10, 9, 8 etc." But I have always been fascinated by Top 10 Lists having to do with books, music, movies, TV shows, and more. My biggest complaint with such lists is when its creators do not include many (if any) selections from the Twentieth Century or earlier.

There seems to me to be a common misconception that anything old has nothing to offer in the sophisticated, modern times we live in. Here's an example of how untrue this is. Father Michael Müller in an 1868 book on prayer discusses eight ways we can make our prayers pleasing to God.

1. We must pray for something good.
2. Our prayer must be humble.
3. Our prayer must be fervent.
4. We must change our life for the better.
5. We must forgive those who may have injured us.
6. We must do good works in our day-to-day life.
7. Our prayer must be confident.
8. Our prayer must be persevering.

As Jesus says to someone who questioned him, "Do this and you will live." (Luke 10:28) If we learn from Fr. Michael Müller, we will pray better, too. BTW, please join other parishioners in praying a Novena to the Holy Spirit beginning this Friday.

In honor of moms of all ages and kinds as well as our high school graduates, the Dismas Men's Club is hosting a Pancakes (and More!) Breakfast Sunday morning May 14 from 10:15 until 11:15 am in the Parish Hall. No charge, but donations are accepted. Congratulations and kudos to our soon to be graduates! We offer gratitude and prayers to moms, grandmas, godmothers, stepmothers and foster mothers living and deceased.

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Parish website

<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

This Sunday's

Readings

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/051423.cfm>

Faith in West Virginia

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

This and (almost) Every Saturday

Attention Gentlemen

Here at Blessed Sacrament all men are invited, encouraged, and welcome to attend two groups. Come and see. There is a Men's weekly Bible Sharing on **Saturdays at 9am** in the Library. Even our staff cat Walter attended **once** and approved. Right now we are working our way through the Gospel of Matthew.

Dismas Men's Club meets the Second Sunday of the month at 7pm in Room 6. Dismas uses their skills to provide thousands of dollars of free labor to for maintenance and repairs at Blessed Sacrament. This month's meeting will be during the Mother's Day Breakfast on May 14 between the Sunday Masses.



The Silence of Mary

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
treasured all things and
pondered them carefully in her heart,
teaching us that deep, interior silence
which enfolded her throughout her life:

the silence of the Annunciation — faith, mission and obedience;
the silence of the Visitation — humility, service and praise;
the silence of Bethlehem — birth, incarnation and wonder;
the silence of the Flight into Egypt — perseverance, hope and trust;
the silence of Nazareth — simplicity, intimacy and communion;
the silence of Mt. Calvary — courage, death and abandonment;
the silence of Easter — resurrection, jubilation and glory;
the silence of Ascension — fulfillment, transformation and new creation;
the silence of Pentecost — peace, power and love.

The words and witness of Holy Mary teaches us that silence
which enables us to listen to the small, still voice of our God;
which compels us to worship God alone in spirit and in truth;

which empowers us to acknowledge our nothingness and exult confidently in our Savior; which frees us to lose ourselves in unceasing adoration of the God who is Infinite Love.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and always,
that we may enter into that silence of yours which unites us to Jesus, your Son,
in the mystery of His silence before the Father of mercies. AMEN.
— Alice Claire Mansfield (revised and adapted)

CARBONATED GRACE ***

Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother's Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. But after a good long wait she finally went downstairs to investigate. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs. "As a surprise for Mother's Day," one explained, "We decided to cook our own breakfast."

Fred is 32 years old, and he is still single. One day a friend asked, "Why aren't you married? Can't you find a woman who will be a good wife?" Fred replied, "Actually, I've found many women I wanted to marry, but when I bring them home to meet my parents, my mother doesn't like them." His friend thinks for a moment and says, "I've got the perfect solution, just find a girl who's just like your mother." A few months later they meet again and his friend says, "Did you find the perfect girl? Did your mother like her?" With a frown on his face, Fred answers, "Yes, I found the perfect girl. She was just like my mother. You were right, my mother liked her very much." The friend said, "Then what's the problem?" Fred replied, "My father doesn't like her."

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*

MYSTIC MORSEL

It is really a natural trend to lapse into taking oneself too seriously because it's the easiest thing to do, for solemnity and seriousness flow out of us naturally, but laughter is a leap into light. It is easy to be heavy, hard to be light. And never forget that Satan fell by force of gravity. . . Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly
— G.K. Chesterton