

Father Paul's Pentecost Post

May 17, 2024



On May 17, 1900, the children's book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum was published. Thirty-nine years later it was the inspiration for a musical fantasy with the same name. On May 11, 12, and 15, the movie was shown on the big screen as part of the Flashback series of film classics at the Marquee Theater. Millions of words have been written in essays, podcasts, TED Talks, and books about lessons we can learn from the movie classic. Here are a few, but not all ideas found in this film.

- **There's no place like home. Be grateful for the life you have.** Ideally home is a safe, blessed place. But we don't always appreciate it until we miss or even lose it.
- **You have what you need to succeed.** The Scarecrow wishes for a brain, the Tin Man wants a heart, & the Lion wants nothing more than to be brave, but they possess these very qualities from the start. If you look within yourself, you may be able to pull out the strength, courage, & wherewithal intelligence never knew you had. The lion represents our need to be courageous, the tin man to think clearly, the scarecrow to feel deeply, and Dorothy to be at home.
- **Don't quit before you get there.** When they see Emerald City and Dorothy falls asleep and they say to her: *You can't rest now, we're nearly there.* Sometimes we feel like giving up right before we accomplish our task or achieve our goal. Alcoholics Anonymous puts it this way — *Don't quit before the miracle.*
- **You need friends to make it.** None of the four characters would have succeeded on their own. They needed help from their friends – a drop of oil, getting out of the cornfield, a pat on the back, or a hand to hold. Especially when the going gets tough, stick together. People come and go in your life, but true friends are forever.
- **People are not always what they seem.** Even the greatest most powerful man may be a fake. Some seemingly great people got power by using smoke and mirrors & without these accessories, they are revealed as ordinary & unworthy of the position they hold. The Bible says, "Put no trust in princes!" We can always count on God.
- **Follow your dream** — your yellow brick road. Stay on the path you know is true.
- **Real courage is facing your fears.** The Cowardly Lion is the last of the four friends to learn his lesson. As they approach the Wizard, he gets enough courage to stand before him. Whatever it is that you are afraid of, stand up to it.
- **The right shoes give you power.** Most women will testify to that!
- **You've had the power all along.** Dorothy had the shoes from the beginning, but she needed help to realize it. So, too, in our spiritual journey, we have the grace of God and the Holy Spirit. But we need the sacraments or a spiritual guide to show us how.

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This Sunday's Readings

Cell: (304) 433-7472. Email: pjw424@gmail.com
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/052823-Day.cfm>

A funeral for my brother, Tim Wharton, will be held at 11:00am on Saturday, May 18th at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Parkersburg.

Notable Noteworthy News Now

PENTECOST SUNDAY is this weekend. You are encouraged to **DRESS IN RED.**

Feed Their Minds is a way to get rid of books we'll never read again as well as to help clients of Manna Meal. Sci-Fi and Westerns are popular. Many are homeless, so please no cookbooks, craft books, diet books, etc. Please bring books this Sunday.

Please participate in making the new Pictorial Directory a success by signing up for you picture and updating your contact information.

Be sure to read the bulletin for updates concerning the school flooring and community garden projects unfolding this summer at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

PENTECOST PRAYER

Come, O Holy Spirit, come.
Come as Holy Fire and burn within us!
Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us!
Come as Holy Light and lead us!
Come as Holy Truth and teach us!
Come as Holy Power and enable us!
Come as Holy Life and dwell in us!
Fill us, convert us, and consecrate us,
 until we are completely yours.
Come, O Holy Spirit, come.



CARBONATED GRACE ***

Q: Why did Dorothy scream?

A: Because the Tin Man stepped on her toto.

Q: How did the Munchkins communicate?

A: In Yellow Brick Code.

Q: What part of Kansas did Toto come from?

A: TO-TOpeka.

Q: What cleaned all the garbage out of Kansas?

A: A janitor-nado.

Q: Why did Dorothy and her friends hate the tin woodsman in the morning?

A: Because he liked to get up oily.

Q: What did Dorothy cut herself with?

A: The Scissors of Oz.

Q: How did Dorothy's dog travel through Oz?

A: Incogni-toto.

Q: What did Dorothy's dog wear when he went dancing?

A: A Toto tutu.

Q: Why was the Tin Woodsman hard to get along with?

A: Because he was heartless and he had an ax to grind.

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*