



Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

May 20, 2023

I shared this anecdote on Holy Thursday. Several weeks after I returned home from college having survived a brutal semester with six final exams, I picked up my youngest sister and brother from the Catholic grade school. It was their last day of school. Shortly after the bell rang, a group of first or second graders came running out of the door. One of them joyously exclaimed, “YAY!!! No more school!” To which I sighed and said to myself, “Oh, if you only knew...” Those youngsters had a taste of freedom. The Hebrews experienced freedom from slavery in Egypt.

Here are a few random thoughts about high school and graduations.

- Most of us have lost contact with many, possibly all, our closest classmates. We didn't stay in touch. When we don't stay connected to God, our faith, our relationship with God withers. Come to Mass. Take advantage of opportunities to grow and learn.
- Did you ever notice that many of the people who remained in our hometowns don't come to our High School Reunions? Perhaps they are worried that those who moved away will think less of those who stayed. They don't and we shouldn't care if they did!
- The word *commencement* comes a Latin and then French word meaning *beginning*. Those second graders years ago had no idea of how much further they had to go in school. High School graduates are just putting their feet into the ocean of life. They've only just begun. Wish them well. Support & encourage them. Lift them up in prayer.

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523 Cell: (304) 433-7472 Email: pjw424@gmail.com
Parish website <https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
Faith in West Virginia <https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>
This Sunday's Readings <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/052123-Ascension.cfm>
This Sunday's Bulletin

Live, Local, and Late-breaking

Please join in praying the **Novena to the Holy Spirit** daily until **Pentecost Sunday**. We will be Zooming it at 6:30 pm starting Friday May 19. Here's the link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84254940135?pwd=a2NRdnRlN2JBb09yU2RXUXhpQWpKQT09>

We are looking for Facilitators to moderate a Wednesday night Bible Sharing on one or more of the readings for the coming Sunday. Please contact Mike Granata or Fr. Paul.

May 28th is **PENTECOST SUNDAY**. You are invited to wear **RED** to Mass.

POEM Good

Whatever fills our soul,
God gives us that.
He is pouring wine into cups.
We are to just hold ours out.

He causes the sun to rise on all.
The earth is ours and all that's good.

And as my skin responds to the warmth
of a late winter's morning,
I see dew still on the bud
that's yet to open for its full.

And I remember, our souls are made of a substance
to retain that which is poured,

upon us without measure,
without limit or withholding.
That we might draw water as the plants,
to use and to store.

Yes God, whatever fills our soul
you give us that.
Pour into my cup, open my buds to their full
to contain you and to trust,

in your goodness to all.
— Ana Lisa de Jong

MYSTIC MORSEL

One fruit of contemplation is that we slowly become
more conscious of everything as a sacred vessel,
 each person and object,
 each moment in time is a
dwelling place for the Holy Presence.
— Christine Valters Paintner, PhD



CARBONATED GRACE ***

When the Fire Department brought one of their newest trucks to the town's Elementary School, the children noticed a Dalmatian dog sitting next to the driver. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep the crowds back," said one youngster. "No," said another, "he's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*