

# ● *Father Paul's Weekly Email* ●

May 24, 2024

May and October are two months when Catholics especially honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus. There are two inscriptions from the first centuries of Christianity related to Mary: Theotokos, Mother of God, and Boetheia, the Helper. Today - May 24 - the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians. Protestants frequently accuse Catholics of worshipping Mary. That is not true. We honor, celebrate, venerate, and hold her in the highest esteem as one whose life is the best example of discipleship.

The Lord Jesus is the perfect model of holiness. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We are to love God and all people as Jesus has shown us: total and perfect and unselfish love even to death upon the cross. Out of love for us, God has raised up for us other models or examples of holiness: Mary and the saints.

Besides our church family on earth, the church has always taught that we belong to the larger family of God we call the *Communion of Saints*: those who have gone before us in faith. We ask saints to pray for us as we might ask someone on earth for their prayers. We do not pray to Saint Such-and-Such although many Catholics use that expression. Rather, we should say that we a saint to pray **with** us and **for** us to God even as we ask family and friends to do the same.

Mary says in her great prayer, "All generations shall call me blessed." (Luke 1:48) We Catholics bless, honor, remember, celebrate, and seek to follow her example. I ask people who attack the Church to tell me how their faith community blesses Mary.

Jesus says in the gospels, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the Word of God and keep it" Mary had to meet the same demands as the other people of her day. She met the rigid demands of the gospel, and this is why we honor Mary, and not simply because of her physical relationship to Jesus. Mary's holiness and greatness also stem from the way she made a decision to become a disciple by hearing the Word of God and keeping it. The Church honors Mary because God first honored her.

In our devotion to Mary, we must always remember what she says in the gospel of John to the waiters at the wedding feast of Cana. "Do whatever he tells you." Any devotion to Mary and the saints, which does not lead us closer to Christ, is misplaced, misguided, and misdirected.

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<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>  
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/052624.cfm>

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## Attention Please

We need your help in making our new pictorial directory a success. Please sign up in the Gathering Space to have your picture taken by Mike Switzer.

Be sure to read about our Flooring Project in our School as well as our Community Garden Project set to begin this summer. Please read all about it in our bulletin.

Especially remember in your prayers Tony O'Leary and Tommy Ross who will be ordained Permanent Deacons on Friday June 7. Pray, too, for their wives Theresa and Kathy who support has been and will be instrumental in their ministry.

### **MYSTIC MORSELS**

Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what Eve bound through her disbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith.

— Saint Irenaeus of Lyons (late 2nd century)

Honor, venerate and respect with special love the holy and glorious Virgin Mary who, being the Mother of Jesus Christ our Brother, is also in truth our very mother. Let us then have recourse to her, and as her little children cast ourselves into her bosom with perfect confidence, at all times and on all occasions let us invoke her maternal love whilst striving to imitate her virtues.

--Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

How pleasing the faith of Our Lady was to the Heavenly Father! It was her faith that made Jesus grow more and more each day in her. If we have such faith it will make Jesus grow in our hearts.

— Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified (1846-1878)

Let those who think that the Church pays too much attention to Mary give heed to the fact that Our Blessed Lord Himself gave ten times as much of His life to her as He gave to His Apostles.

— Blessed Fulton Sheen (1895-1979)

## PRAYER

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For you chose the Immaculate Virgin Mary,  
the Mother of your Son,  
to be the Mother and Help of Christians,  
so that under her protection we might be  
fearless in waging the battle of faith,  
steadfast in holding the teaching of the Apostles,  
and tranquil in spirit in the storms of this world,  
until we reach the joy of your heavenly city.  
With steadfast love  
we sing your unending praise;  
we join with the hosts of heaven  
in their triumphant hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy  
— from the Mass for Our Lady Help of Christians



## CARBONATED GRACE\*\*\*

The psychiatrist waited until the new patient became comfortable on the couch, then said, “Why don’t you started at the beginning?” The man on the couch said, “OK. In the beginning, I created the heaven in the Earth...”

A woman explained to a psychiatrist that her husband thought he was the Lone Ranger. The psychiatrist asked, “How long has this been going on?” “About seven years,” she answered. The doctor said, “Bring him in and I will cure him.” The woman nodded and said, “ I guess it’s the right thing to do. But Tonto is so good with the children!”

\*\*\*Ann Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*