

## Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - Nov. 1, 2024

### Will Rogers (1879-1935)

My all-time favorite journalist was Will Rogers, the great Native-American humorist who was loved by both conservatives and liberals. This grinning, biracial, Cherokee Indian cowboy from Oklahoma kept our nation laughing through the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Will Rogers held the secret of banishing gloom, of making tears give way to laughter, of supplanting desolation and despair with hope and courage."

Politicians from both parties invited Rogers to run for President on their ticket, but he refused.

Raised a Methodist, he was ecumenical in his respect for all faith traditions. He advised: "Hunt out and talk about the good that is in the other fellow's church, and you will do away with all the religious hatred you hear so much of today." Rogers was a peacemaker, a healer.

When Rogers died in 1935 in an airplane crash, the entire nation mourned. Over 100,000 mourners walked by Roger's casket at his ecumenical funeral. His memorial

service was presided over by a Protestant minister, a Catholic priest, and a Jewish singer who sang a Hebrew mourning chant. Mexican-Americans nearby placed a memorial wreath in their neighborhood. An African-American group joined a parade in Rogers' honor. In Oklahoma, Cherokee Indians performed a death dance in his honor.

Will Rogers had a loving heart, He was fair-minded, He never became obsessed with the bad news of his times. He had credibility with the American people. "We will never have true civilization until we have learned to recognize the rights of others," Rogers said.

Rogers requested that the following epitaph appear on his gravestone: "I joked about every prominent man of my time, but I never met a man I didn't like."

In these tumultuous times, we could all learn from Will Rogers. He was a sane and believable voice who had a talent for bringing people together.

— Cal Samara, Editor *The Joyful Noiseletter* used with permission

We need more people like the extraordinary Will Rogers. It's been said we get the politicians we deserve. I don't know about that, but it makes me sad to see the vitriol, hatred, lies, name-calling, disrespect, and utter lack of civility this is so prevalent today in politics and so-called social media. It is a shame that people seem more ready to tear down, rather than build up and to criticize rather than compliment. We Christians ought to heed the promise and warning of Jesus. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (Luke 6:37-38)

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This Sunday's Bulletin

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

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# Live, Local, & Late-breaking

**Friday November 1** is the **FEAST OF ALL SAINTS**, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass is celebrated at **12pm Noon and 6:00 pm**.

**Saturday November 2** is the **FEAST OF ALL SOULS** when we remember and pray for our beloved dead as well as the poor souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them. **Mass is scheduled for 10:00 am**.



**Beginning Saturday November 2,  
Saturday Mass will begin at 4pm  
with Confessions at 3:00 pm.**

## **POEM      May You Always**

What you hold, may you always hold.  
What do you do, may you always do.  
Never abandon it.  
With the swiftest, lightest steps  
that stir no dust,  
and on feet that don't stumble,  
may you walk securely into the future  
with joy and speed  
along the path of wisdom, happy.  
May your steps be practical and sure,  
as the Spirit of the Lord calls you.  
— Saint Claire of Assisi, Letters



## **CARBONATED GRACE**

Three contractors are bidding to fix a broken fence at the White House. One is from Chicago, another is from Tennessee, and the third is from Minnesota. All three go with a White House official to examine the fence. The Minnesota contractor takes out a tape measure and does some measuring, then works some figures with a pencil. "Well," he says, "I figure the job will run about \$900. \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me." The Tennessee contractor also does some measuring and figuring, then says, "I can do this job for \$700. \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me." The Chicago contractor doesn't measure or figure, but leans over to the White House official and whispers, "\$2,700." The official, incredulous, says, "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?" The Chicago contractor whispers back, "\$1000 for me, \$1000 for you, and we hire the guy from Tennessee to fix the fence." "Done!" replies the government official. And that, my friends, is how the new stimulus plan will work.