

Father Paul's Weekly Email

September 22, 2023

Luciano Pavarotti tells this story: "When I was a boy, my father, a baker, introduced me to the wonders of song. He urged me to work very hard to develop my voice. Arrigo Pola, a professional tenor in my hometown of Modena, Italy, took me as a pupil. I also enrolled in a teacher's college. On graduating, I asked my father, 'Shall I be a teacher or a singer?' 'Luciano, my father replied, 'if you try to sit on two chairs, you will fall between them. For life, you must choose one chair.'

"I chose one. It took seven years of study and frustration before I made my first professional appearance. It took another seven to reach the Metropolitan Opera. Now I think no matter what we do in Life, Construction, Management, Sales, Stay at Home Parent, whatever we choose, we should give ourselves completely to it."

This is advice that Jesus certainly agrees with. As Christians we can try to sit on two chairs. But in the end, we will fail. Either we commit ourselves to God's cause or we choose to be on the side of sin, selfishness, greed, hatred, and evil. "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" (Mt. 6:21) "*No one can serve two masters.*" (Mt. 6:24) Jesus faced temptation not only in the desert, but throughout his ministry. But he was committed to doing the will of God.

We can and do express our commitment when we take time to pray, read the gospels and other scriptures, come to Mass and worship with brothers and sisters in Christ. Getting involved in ministry and service within and outside the parish, bring our children and youth to Sunday Faith Formation. We can be examples to our own and the children of others when **we** take part in opportunities on Sunday mornings and in any of our Bible Sharing or studies.

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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/092423.cfm	
Wednesday Bible Handout	not available at mail-out time	
This Sunday's Bulletin	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/september-24-2023/?wpdmdl=1463&refresh=650d98f4ef5a21695389940	

- **FAITH FORMATION** for **CHILDREN, YOUTH** and **ADULTS BEGINS SUNDAY** from 10:15-11:15 am.
- **ELECTION** for **SUNDAY VICARIATE PASTORAL COUNCIL** September 30 and October 1 after Mass.

- **BLESSING** of **ANIMALS** Sunday October 1 at 2 pm

PLEASE READ ABOUT IT IN YOUR BULLETIN

POEM Go Forward on the Road

When you walk
in a forest, garden, or meadow and see
the young shoots of the plants,
the fruits on the trees, and
the variety of the flowers of the field,
learn a lesson from God's plants.

Every summer,
the trees become covered with shoots
and invariably grow in height and width.
It seems as though every year,
each tree tries to grow
even more than the previous year
thanks to the strength given it by God.

Therefore, say to yourself:
every day, every year,
I also must absolutely
grow higher and higher morally,
better and better, more and more perfect;
I must go forward on the road
to the Kingdom of Heaven
to the Father in Heaven,
through the strength
of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Spirit
dwelling and working within me.
As a field is adorned
with a multitude of flowers,
the field of my own soul
should also be adorned
with all the flowers of virtue.
As the trees bring forth
flowers and afterward fruit,
so must my soul also bring forth
the fruits of faith and good works.
— Saint John of Kronstadt



PRAYER

Lord God, there is so much I don't know.
I know nothing next to what you know.
I don't know what my future holds.
I don't even know what tomorrow—
or the next five minutes—holds.

But I know that you love me.
I know that you love the church.
I know that you love the world.
I know your plans for me are good.
I know your power is unlimited
and your love is unconditional.

And so, step by step, and moment by moment,
help me to trust you,
to be courageous and full of faith,
to boldly embrace uncertainty,
and to rely on you for whatever results,
in Jesus' name. Amen.
— Bob Hostetler

CARBONATED GRACE ***

A man was driving home late one afternoon, and he was driving above the speed limit. He notices a police car with its flashing blue lights on in his rear view mirror. He thinks "I can outrun this guy," so he floors it and the race is on. The cars are racing down the highway — 60, 70, 80, 90 miles an hour. Finally, as his speedometer passes 100, the guy figures he can't outrun the cop and gives up. He pulls over to the curb. The police officer gets out of his cruiser and approaches the car. He leans down and says "Listen mister, I've had a really lousy day, and I just want to go home. Give me a good excuse and I'll let you go." The man thought for a moment and said, "Three weeks ago, my wife ran off with a police officer. When I saw your cruiser in my rear view mirror, I thought you were that officer and you were trying to give her back to me!" No ticket!

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*