



Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

May 27, 2023

In 1829, Martin Van Buren (President in 1837-1841) sent the following letter to then President Andrew Jackson: “The canal system of this country is being threatened by the spread of a new form of transportation known as “railroads.” The federal government must preserve the canals for the following reasons: “If canal boats are supplanted by “railroads,” serious unemployment will result. Captains, cooks, drivers, hostlers, repairmen, and lock tenders will be left without means of livelihood, not to mention the numerous farmers now employed in growing hay for horses. Boat builders would suffer and towline, whip, and harness makers would be left destitute. Canal boats are absolutely essential to the defense of the United States. In the event of the expected trouble with England, the Erie Canal would be the only means by which we could ever move the supplies so vital to waging modern war. As you may well know, Mr. President, “railroad” carriages are pulled at the enormous speed of 15 miles per hour by “engines” which, in addition to endangering life and limb of passengers, roar and snort their way through the countryside, setting fire to crops, scaring the livestock, and frightening women and children. The Almighty certainly never intended that people should travel at such breakneck speed.”

Most people seem to be afraid of change, bitterly opposed to change, and welcome it with an enthusiasm that might be described lukewarm at best. History is filled with examples of people ridiculing automobiles, airplanes, radio, television, spaceflight, computers, the internet, smart phones, and more. How often have we discovered that changes we have had to make turned out to tremendous blessings?

What change would you like to make in your life? Is there something you think we need to improve our parish life and mission? Be sure to let me, another staff member, or a member of our Pastoral Council know. What do you suggest? Are you willing to help?

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523

Parish website

Faith in West Virginia

This Sunday's Readings

This Sunday's Bulletin

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>

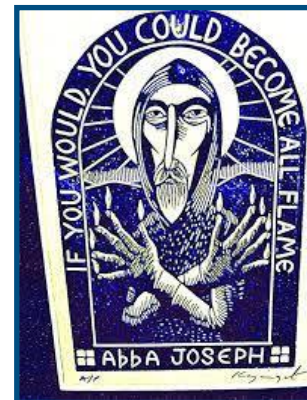
Coming Soon

May 28th is **PENTECOST SUNDAY**. You are invited to wear **RED, ORANGE**, or **YELLOW** to Mass to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit in power upon the Church.

Friday June 2nd from 5:30-7pm several of our seminarians will be at Sacred Heart Basilica's reception and overflow area. Your prayers and encouragement are welcome.

Sunday June 4 at 2pm Faith in Film Series presents **Fr. Stu: Reborn** (rated PG-13, 2 hr. 4 min. Where: Parish Hall. Come and join us.

STORY: A young monk in the desert of Egypt went to a wise older monk and asks essentially what he should do to live a whole and faithful Christian faith and life. Abba Joseph, the older monk asks him what he does at present. The younger monk replies that he says his prayers, keeps his fast, adheres to his rule of life as best he can, and generally is kind to his fellow brothers. At that point the elder arises and stands with his hands extended to the heavens when, whoosh..., all ten of his fingers become lamps of flame, and he says to the younger, "If you will, all of your life can become as of fire."



MYSTIC MORSEL:

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.

- Saint Catherine of Siena

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, send down from heaven beams of your light.
Come, Father of the poor, come, giver of gifts, come, light of the world.
Perfect comforter, sweet guest of the soul, sweet coolness,
You are like rest in the work, like refreshment in the heat, like comfort in tears.
O best light, fill the innermost hearts of your Faithful.
Without you humans would be worthless and empty, nothing would be harmless.
Clean what is dirty, water what has dried out, and heal what is hurt.
Soften what is hard, warm what is cold, find what is lost.
Give to your faithful, who trust in you, your gifts and grace.
Grant us a long life, faithful service, and eternal joy. Amen. Alleluia.
— Stephen Langton (c. 1160-1228) adapted

CARBONATED GRACE ***

A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought amazing new hearing aids. They cost me \$10,000, but they are state of the art. They're perfect!" "Really," answered the neighbor, "What kind is it?" The man replied, "12:30."

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*