



Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

June 3, 2023

The scenic drive on Colorado's Million Dollar Highway, from Silverton to Ouray was/is a two-lane road, with hairpin turns, built in part by cutting away the side of mountains, so that guardrails were not always possible and death was certain for careless drivers. My mom and I decided to take it one summer in the early to mid 1990's. It is one of the most eye-popping, awe-inspiring drives I ever experienced that took my breath away. It is where I experienced my first — and perhaps only — anxiety attack. I was unable to drive. LINK: <https://youtu.be/J6xq3DMjvrA>

All of this came to mind when I read an article titled *Why We Should not be so Anxious about Anxiety?* The premise was some anxiety ought to be understood positively, providing it causes us to do something helpful. Still, some anxiety can be harmful. I had to let my mom drive that road because I was totally unable to continue. The writer spoke of something worse than anxiety — *meta-anxiety* — that is, *anxiety about anxiety.*”

So what is making me anxious these days? Our attendance and giving have not returned to pre-COVID levels. I have not baptized one baby in my first 11 months. There has been very little interest in Vacation Bible School. We need Catechists and children for Faith Formation and possibly Confirmation. Am I the right person for your Pastor? Worry creates more problems than solutions. What are you anxious about? Here are some words of Jesus to think about and pray with when we are feeling anxious.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?” (Matt. 6:25-27)

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Parish website
Faith in West Virginia
This Sunday's Readings
This Sunday's Bulletin

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<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/060423.cfm>

Noteworthy News

A new Bible Study *Angels in the Bible* begins Wednesday May 31 at 10am in our Library. We will examine some of the Bible's most fascinating passages about angels, explore their ministry on God's behalf and draw insights for our own spiritual lives.

Our Parish Faith in Film Series presents *Father Stu: Reborn* (PG). It is an unflinchingly honest, funny and ultimately uplifting drama about a lost soul who finds his purpose in a most unexpected place. Sunday June 4 @ 2pm in the Parish Hall.

Camp Leon takes place at Camp Saint John Bosco in Huttonsville beginning June 11. Please pray for the campers, staff, and volunteers in attendance. It costs about \$300 per person. Donations may be sent to Blessed Sacrament Parish with Camp Leon clearly marked.

POEM

For Faith to Believe

It is God who pursues us
who uplifts us
and protects us
and provides for everything we need

It is God who loved us first
who showers us with every good thing
we do not even know

All that is required of us
is the faith to believe
that God is there
that God is our Greatest Lover
the source of all that's wonderful
there is in our lives

It is our part to be able
to receive such a love
to rejoice
because we have been called
because we have been found
because we learn
that despite the mundaneness of what we see
we are special
we are cherished
we are in truth

God's beloved ones.
— Author Unknown

MYSTIC MORSEL

Do not be anxious about what may happen tomorrow. The same Eternal Father who takes care of you today will take care of you tomorrow, and every day of your life. He will either shield you from suffering, or give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put aside all useless thoughts, all vain dreads and all anxious imaginations.

— Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

CARBONATED GRACE ***

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should make the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee." The husband said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here so you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee." Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides it says in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." Husband replies, "I can't believe that! Show me." So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says, "HEBREWS."

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*

 **PLEASE KNOW**

I will **NEVER** ask anyone to buy gift cards for me to give away.

I will **NEVER** be stuck in a foreign country since I have no Passport.

I will **ONLY** send you an email from pjw424@gmail.com

I will **ONLY** text you from my cell phone 304 433 7472

I gratefully accept invitations to breakfast, lunch, and dinner in people's homes or at restaurants.