



Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

JANUARY 2020
Volume XXXIIV Issue No. 01

"Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

LOOKING FORWARD OR LOOKING BACK? - By Kathryn Wilcox

January is the month that is named after a Roman god, Janus, who had two faces, one looking forward, the other backward.



He was the god of the beginning and ending of conflicts. While we do not believe in the Roman gods, the name is appropriate for what we do in January- look back on the past year and resolve to do better in the New Year.

As I pondered the New Year, I picked up a book by one of my favorite authors: *The God of Miracles* by Michael H. Brown. He actually startled me when he said: ***"Do you realize that God can go backwards in time and reverse the effects of anything we have done wrong, or that was wrongly done to us (if He so wills)?"*** (God of Miracles)

I was excited, then became immediately skeptical. How can this be? I continued to read. Michael explained that ***"The Lord is omnipotent and He is also timeless. He can appear at any time in any situation. He speaks to our supernatural existence."*** (God of Miracles).

It is quite difficult for us who are bound by linear time, to comprehend that God, and spiritual beings, exist outside of this thing we recognize as a 'timeline.'

The point is affirmed by scripture: ***"But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day."*** (2 Peter 3:8, NRSVCE).

The amazing revelation in Michael Brown's book is also addressed by Padre (Saint) Pio. Padre Pio used to pray for the happy death of his father even though his father had passed away. When asked about this, Padre Pio gave the same response that Michael writes about. He replied that he always prays for the 'happy death' of his father because with God there is no time. So God can go back in time or forward in what we view as 'time' and He can do the miraculous, even if we don't see it or understand it with our limited human minds.

A big revelation of this is that our Lord can allow us to rectify past mistakes as if they never happened. The key to this is that we must seek His forgiveness through CONFESSION. When we confess our sins, Jesus takes the punishment for our sins upon Himself and we are set free. WOW!

The other part of this is FORGIVENESS OF OTHERS. Once we forgive another for a wrong they have done, the past hurt is gone, and we can love again. These things often become 'as if they never happened.'

Michael goes on to teach that our life on earth is a "constant invisible transaction" between us and the supernatural. The more we "die to ourselves," the more we become one with God.

How do we do we become one with God? Easy says Michael, "die to ourselves." Here are some of his suggestions:

1. When we are offended or ignored, and do not have a pity party, that is dying to self.
2. When others do not want or take our advice, and we do not become angry, that is dying to self.
3. When we patiently endure tardiness, irregularity, disorder and annoyance, that is dying to self.
4. When we do not talk about ourselves or our own accomplishments, and instead choose to be anonymous, that is dying to self.
5. When we see our family and/or friends prosper and rejoice and do not envy, that is dying to self.
6. When we are content with any food, climate, surroundings or companions, that is dying to self.

Continued on page 5

I TOUCHED THE HEM! - By Elaine Sinnott



Physical Contact with Jesus Accompanied by Faith

Is it possible to reach out for Jesus' clothes today just like the hemorrhaging woman did 2,000 years ago?

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. *With complete faith she said, "If I but touch His clothes, I shall be cured."* As she reached out and touched Him, immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body the healing of her long affliction.

Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, *"Who has touched my clothes?"* But his disciples said to him, *"You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'"* And he looked around to see who had done it.

The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down

before Jesus and told Him the whole truth. He said to her, *"Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."* (Mark 5:25-34 NABRE)

The notes in my bible for verse 28 say: "in the case of the hemorrhage victim, the inner conviction that physical contact (Mk 5:30), accompanied by faith that Jesus' saving power could effect a cure, **was rewarded**."

Reaching for Jesus Today

Don't you wish you could do that today, my dear friends? Reach out and physically touch Jesus' clothes in the midst of your intense struggle over the loss of a loved one, perhaps a parent, a spouse, or your very own child? Don't you wish you could reach out to His clothes in the midst of suffocating anxiety because you can't seem to get ahead, no matter how hard you try? Don't you wish you could reach out in the midst of chronic pain or

illness? Or in the middle of the anger or infertility? Or in the middle of the fear that lingers because of past abuse? Jesus tells us ***if we believe, we shall receive!*** (Mt 21:22). Just like this hemorrhaging woman believed and received. The faith in her words in the passage above showed no hesitation. *She touched His clothes with expectant faith.*

The Jesus Tour

Do you ever wish that you knew where Jesus was going to be taking a stroll in this world so you could book a flight, pack, and prepare yourself to make the trip to stand in the crowd just like that hemorrhaging woman? And maybe even gather up enough courage just to touch His clothes and *know* that his act of faith will heal you? My dear friends, did you know you **CAN** still do this today? This is available for everyone. Jesus is just as physically present with us today as He was to the hemorrhaging woman 2,000 years ago.

You can still stand in His physical presence with expectant faith.

You can still reach out and touch His physical clothes, believing you can be healed.

You can still physically experience His gaze upon you.

And you can gaze back into the eyes of Love Himself.

A Personal Experience

I experienced this unforgettable physical contact with the Lord on a 'Blessed Is She' retreat a couple weeks ago. I had an *incredibly powerful healing experience*, but the personal experience with Jesus that

weekend was even more remarkable.

Saturday night, the last day of the retreat, we entered the church for Mass. After Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began, which is when a piece of consecrated bread that is now Jesus' Body (John 6) is placed in a gold monstrance and the church is filled with quiet reverence as the physical presence of Jesus is moved to the altar.

We sit there and adore the Lord as He adores us right back in a peaceful stillness that drowns out the world. It's a beautifully safe place to be with all of our worries, sorrows, and fears. We hear Him tell us we don't need to carry them anymore because He wants to hold them for us.

*There is no better place to
unload our hearts than
at the physical feet
of our Lord.*

Touching Jesus' Clothes

Then the quiet but powerful worship music began. And the priest wrapped the monstrance in a linen hanging all around each side and walked through the pews, stopping and looking at each individual woman in that church.

I had never experienced a Eucharistic procession before but my heart was about to experience Love Himself and how *personal* His love was for me even among the 300+ women there along with me. As the priest moved through the aisles, quiet sniffles and cries began. Each woman was starting to experience the Lord in an unbelievably personal way. Then, I watched women start to reach out for the linen wrapped around the monstrance as our Lord stopped in front of them. *Suddenly I realized what I was going to experience - a chance to walk in the same shoes as the hemorrhaging woman.*

Feeling His Loving Gaze

When the priest finally reached the back row where we were sitting, I couldn't even wait for Him to get right in front of me. I reached my arm over one of my friends who was there with me to grab the linen, to grab "His clothes"! I grabbed it harder than I probably should have, as everyone else seemed to be gentle. But it was a desire I can't explain or put into adequate words.

My soul recognized Him!

I want to cry just thinking about it again. It was an overwhelming feeling of love. I was crying and couldn't stop. Words can't capture what my heart felt in that moment.

I felt His personal love for me.

I felt Him looking back at me.

The King of my heart, the Lover of my soul was right in front of me, holding me as I cried into His shoulder, releasing everything I had been trying to carry on my own.

A Heavy Sadness

As I was in the midst of this powerful encounter, my heart was simultaneously bursting with joy, yet heavy with sadness.

I was so thankful to be there in the intimate physical presence of our Lord, but I felt equally as sad as I thought about all of the people - my family, my friends, and people I don't even know - who don't know they can experience this too.

The Lord has given us so much more than most of the world realizes, even more than most Christians realize! After Jesus ascended into Heaven, He granted to all those who seek Him the gift of receiving Him in the Eucharist.

All of these loved ones running through my mind made my heart ache. They are missing out on the

most heavenly encounter Jesus gifted us with before He ascended into heaven; His physical presence. It is the closest to heaven we'll ever be here on earth and far too few people know about it.

He Wants To Gaze Upon You, Too!

He died on the Cross to make this experience with Him available to us today! My dear friends, the Lord wants you to experience this, too. I don't want you to be missing out on this! We were not made to carry all of these burdens on our shoulders by ourselves! We were made for heaven. We were made for Him. He promised that His yoke is easy and His burden is light when we cast our cares upon Him. I experienced this in such a real way.

No wonder that experience fed my soul - I was closer to my heavenly home in front of Lord gazing upon me than anywhere else on this earth. When we gaze upon our Lord in the Eucharist, we are gazing upon the same Jesus (at the same time) that is seated on the throne in heaven and whom all the angels and Saints are also gazing upon. We are doing what they are doing.

It was there in front of Jesus that I found healing. I found relief. I could finally take a deep breath. And I found absolute true Love Himself. Jesus wants you to know this Love is also for you. This personal, one-on-one among millions, love *is for you*. You can truly sit in His physical presence in Adoration and feel His gaze upon you and feel His incredibly raw and real love for you.

He wants you to experience a Eucharistic procession, too, where you can look up and see the King of the Universe staring at YOU while you reach out for His clothes with expectant faith!

*Friends, will you allow Him
to love you the way that
He died to love you?
Please say 'yes.'*

Are you living a miraculous life?
Are you in touch with the
supernatural? Are you living in
the *orchestration of angels*?

Christ did. Remember the desert?

Let's examine this point:

How Angels Orchestrate

Look at your life. Look at each day. You know how they can go: *One is smooth* beyond all expectation, with everything falling neatly into place; your timing is just right; what you are trying to do goes together without a hitch. All the gears mesh in whatever you're attempting, and people are treating you just right. That's a good day. We all have them. Hopefully, we thank God for them. Because they are supernatural. Believe that.

And then there are bad days — when you're all thumbs and when everything that *could* go wrong does. You're out of sync. There seems to be a gremlin throwing little wrenches into those gears. No one likes you (or at least, no one helps). It happens to all of us all of the time. And some of it is simply the flow of life: we are tested. Every day, our patience is examined by the Good Great Lord.

But there are ways we can enhance those "good" days and one is by making sure we are utilizing angels. That means prayer. It increases the likelihood that we will draw down God's blessing that day or in a particular endeavor. You know His angels are orchestrating things when a task is done and done well in half the time it usually takes, when there is this flow that seems to let you glide over a job that can often be taxing.

When mystics see angels, they describe holy entities guiding events and people around us (what we consider good "luck"). You know those classic paintings that show angels playing instruments in an orchestra? They orchestrate.

Look at the role they played in the discovery of Jesus' Resurrection. *And meditate this day on how very many times angels may have helped you and even saved your life. When we die, we'll see how many precarious situations they prevented or guided us through. And it will amaze us. A good day it is to thank them.*

As reported by Dr. Jeffrey Long in his new book, *Evidence of the Afterlife: The Science of Near-Death Experiences*, a man named Jonathan had a one percent chance of surviving surgery on his esophagus. We should say, he had a one percent chance when one did not count the intervention of angels!

"I remember standing about ten feet up and ten feet to the side of my body on the operating table," Jonathan recounted in this book that has been drawing national attention. "Around the table were at least a dozen nurses and doctors. *But what was so emotional was the presence of glowing people who I can only describe as angels.*" "Each angel was guiding the hands of the staff they were standing next to.

"I don't remember details too specific, such as what tools were used or the exact position of my body, but only because I was focused so much on the angels guiding the staff in everything they did, from walking to the use of the tools within my chest cavity.

"Even after the operation, I still had an unusual peace and no fear. The doctor said it was the best operation he had ever gone through — there were no problems at all — and he was impressed at my rate of recovery."

When we have peace, when we "glow," when all seems so smooth, it is because angels hover around and over us. We "draw down God's blessing." Form your sanctuary; open it each morning with a Rosary (perhaps a Scriptural Rosary, or at this time of year, the Stations). Fast. Pray from the heart. Get closer to your guardian! There are plenty of angels around, especially during Mass, there for the asking.

[Resources: books on angels; also: *Evidence of the Afterlife: The Science of Near-Death Experiences.*]

<https://spiritdailyblog.com/angels/archives-living-life-with-angels>



LOOKING FORWARD OR LOOKING BACK? - Continued from page 1

7. When we can take correction with humility, that is dying to self.

8. When we are insulted, and do not respond in anger, but instead pray for our attackers, that is dying to self.

New Years resolutions? This sure looks like a good list for any Christian, and will certainly bring about spiritual change and unity with God, much more so than going on a diet, or trying to exercise every day. Try just a few,

God gives grace when we seek Him and dying to self will make lots of room for the Holy Spirit! Ask for the strength, and God will give you the grace to succeed.



But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26 (NRSVCE)

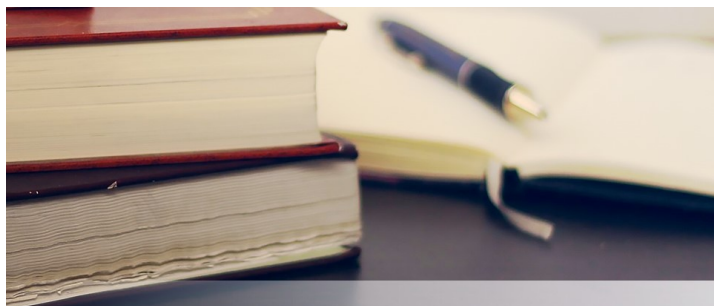


The gift Upcoming 2020 Life in the Spirit

March 20 and March 21

St Joseph/Bread of Life
Community Center
Erie, PA

www.eriercd.org/wordoflife/



Word of Life is looking for people to contribute articles to the newsletter if you have experience in writing, please forward articles to editor@wordoflifeccrc.org

Help Wanted

Word Of Life is in need of persons with expertise in generating flyers and slides for events and newsletters, as well as persons with expertise in editing using Word. If you would like to work from home, please contact editor@wordoflifeccrc.org

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Important Dates

WORD OF LIFE

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CENTER
2020



February 8-9	Friday & Saturday	"With Unveiled Faces" – 24 Hours of Adoration Holy Rosary Chapel, Erie, PA 10AM Friday – Benediction 9 AM Saturday
March 20-21	Friday / Saturday	Life in the Spirit St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center
April 25	Saturday	"As You Go!" Greater Things Luncheon Justin and Loise Blose' Testimonies about the Life-changing power of the Holy Spirit St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
May 2	Saturday	Life in the Spirit Cambridge Springs Prison
May 12	Tuesday	Healing Mass – Holy Rosary Church 6:30 PM
May 29-30	Friday/ Saturday	Life in the Spirit TBA (Sheffield)
June 19-20	Friday/ Saturday	Fan Into Flame Seminar St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center
August 11	Tuesday	Healing Mass – Holy Rosary Church- 6:30 PM
August 22	Saturday	Greater Things Luncheon St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
September 18	Friday	Come To Jesus – Adoration Worship Concert – location TBA 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
October 6	Tuesday	Healing Mass – Holy Rosary Church- 6:30 PM
October 17	Saturday	Annual Greater Things Conference Our Lady of Peace Parish 8:30 – 3:30
November 19	Thursday	Annual Membership Meeting Walkiewicz Residence 6:30PM

upcoming events

First Saturday of the Month Mass in honor of Our Lady

9:00 AM at St. Gregory's, Northeast, PA
Sacred Music beginning at 8:50 AM
Music provided by: Soloist, Jacqueline Phillip;
Violinist, Louis Nicolia and Organist Corey Spacht
Celebrant: Rev. Jerry Priscaro

24 hours of Adoration

"With Unveiled Faces"

Exposition Friday, February 8th at 10am through
Benediction on Saturday, February 9th at 9am
Violin Worship with Philharmonic
Violinist Louis Nicolia

Midnight Eucharistic Recession

3pm and 3am Chaplet of Divine Mercy



PRAYER GROUPS

† SUNDAY

Shalom in Jesus Prayer Group

In home, DuBois, PA 6:30 PM
Rick Kenawell (814) 771-7932

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church, Erie, PA 6:30 PM
West Lake Rd. & Powell Ave. (814) 838-1325
Jack Heintzel

† MONDAY

Disciples of the Holy Spirit

St. Mary's Church Annex 6:00 PM
139 Church St., St. Mary's, PA (814) 781-3904
Mary Ellen Frank

St. Andrew Chapel

(formerly Leopold Center group)
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary 3:15 pm (before Mass)
1116 West 7th St., Erie PA (814) 866-5678
Mary Lou Peterson

River of Life PG

St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA 7:00 PM
2nd & 4th Monday evenings (814) 724-6104
Amy Mosbacher

† TUESDAY

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church 7:00 PM
2701 East Ave, Erie PA (814) 823-3968
Pat Montefiori

St Stephen's

Social Center 12:30 – 2:00 PM
21 State St, Oil City PA (includes Adoration in Church)
Rosalie Bablak also from 6:30 - 7:30pm
(814) 671-7993

† FRIDAY

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting 1:00 PM
Call for location (814) 833-9717
T.A. Walkiewicz

† SATURDAY

God's Holy Love

11 Russell St., Warren, PA 10:30 AM
Virginia Baker (781) 217-1683

† CALL FOR DETAILS

Promises Of God

St. Mary's Church - Crown, PA
Denise Varo (814) 744-8199

Life is Fragile
Handle with Prayer

Word Of Life

Catholic Charismatic
Renewal Center

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The office is generally open limited hours.
Please call before coming.

The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim
the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide
teaching, news, and calendar of events, which
help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal
throughout the Diocese of Erie.

**This newsletter may be copied to put in
churches or shared with others.**

CHIEF EDITOR

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Volume XXXIIV

Issue No. 01

"With Unveiled Faces" Holy Rosary Chapel
Erie PA

2020 24 Hours of
Adoration

Add a little bit of body text

Violin Worship: 11pm with Philharmonic violinist Louis Nicolia
Midnight Eucharistic Procession
3pm and 3am Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Worship - Prayer - Rosary - More

Exposition 2/8 at 10am through Benediction at 2/9 at 9am