



# Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

June 2019  
Volume XXXIII Issue No. 05

*"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)*

## SHOW US YOUR GLORY! - GREATER THINGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Amy Mosbacher

*Great things* were definitely happening in Erie on Saturday, March 9th, at the Annual "Greater Things" Conference at St. Joseph/ Bread of Life Center. The title and theme of the conference was "*Show Us Your Glory, Lord!*" where Dr. Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD, presented four talks on the typology of Moses and Jesus, and the Israelites and us. The conference started with anointed and uplifting praise and worship, led by Jaci, Brianna Erdman, Mike Bohrer, and special guest violinist, Louis Nicolai. Louis was borrowed from the Erie Philharmonic for the day, and *what a blessing!* The instruments and voices combined to lead us from praise into deep worship and an awareness of the presence of God. It was interspersed with scripture and spontaneous prophecies. The Holy Spirit was heavily and palpably with us.

We traveled back in time and place to the Hebrews of the Old Testament and then forward to Jesus in the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. Using typology, which is the study of persons, things, events and institutions in the Old Testament that foreshadow people and events in the New, we saw how God's wonderful and amazing plan took a shape we previously could not see. As Dr. Phillips spoke, it was as if the Holy Spirit was sharpening our spiritual eyesight using binoculars and our spiritual vision came into an astonishing new focus.

Many people are intimidated by the Old Testament. Dr. Phillips presented this information in her usual dynamic way that made us all excited to learn as she helped us see this beautiful tapestry that God had woven together in salvation history. We explored the layout of the Tabernacle and camp, how items were made, and how the tabernacle in the desert was a replica of what was already in heaven. Dr. Phillips highlighted God's wondrously planned details, such as the word "sakak," which described the weaving of the veil in the Temple, and

that the only other time this word is used in Scripture is in Psalm 139:15. This verse describes how God knit (wove) *us* together, and formed us in secret in our mother's womb.

The veil of the temple reverently covered God's holy presence and our flesh was woven together to reverently veil the presence of holy presence of God within us. God made us to be holy! (to read more about this, see Sonja Corbitt's wonderful book, "Fulfilled"). Then she connected it to how Jesus' flesh (sakak) was pierced and torn in His Passion, and at the exact moment of Jesus' death, *the veil* (sakak) was torn from top to bottom in the Temple as Jesus entered the Holy of holies (the throne of God) in Heaven, making the way for us to enter also. The comparisons just kept coming as we gained a new appreciation for God giving us a new High Priest in Christ to replace the High Priests of the Old Covenant. Dr. Phillips encouraged several times... "go home and re-read Exodus, then re-read the Book of Hebrews with new understanding of what you are reading!"

As Dr. Phillips talked, we became drenched in the implications of all our Father has done to bring us back into union with Him and how **nothing** was left to chance. God even orchestrated the meaning of names. In Exodus 33, God and Moses debated about whether God would go with the Israelites. The most striking parallels were between Moses and Jesus. Moses always interceded for the Israelites when God was angry because they disobeyed Him and sinned through complaining and lack of faith. After the Israelites worshipped the golden calf, even though God had agreed to provide for the Israelites, God said He would NOT go with them. Moses implored God to **go with them**: "*If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.*" God relented to Moses' intercession and agreed that He would provide for the people and they again

traveled in His presence. God's presence with His people was how they would be singled out among the nations (Ex. 33:17). In the Gospel of Matthew, it's clear that Joseph's dream when the angel told him that the Child Mary would bear would be a son, fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, which prophesies the virgin giving birth to 'Emmanuel - God **with us**,' (Mt. 1:23). God *IS* now *always with us* through Jesus! In our salvation and in the Eucharist, not only providing spiritual food for us, but is *with us* (as Moses implored God to be) forever! It is just as God promised Moses, except a better promise! A better Covenant! Imagine a whole conference filled with insights like this!

The most important thing that was emphasized during the talks is that God is seeking more than obedience to a set of rules. He is seeking a *relationship*. God answered Moses' prayers because God said He '*knew*' Moses. Moses talked to God often and longed to see Him and know Him more deeply. He wants the same with us. He wants us to obey the rules of not sinning, but He wants us to do this out of our love and devotion to Him, not simply out of fear, although fear may be our starting point.

One reason that I like attending events like the Greater Things Conference is because it builds insight and insight builds faith through hearing revelations from the Word of God. "*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God,*" (Rom 10:17, NKJV). Dr. Phillips compared the Word to a pearl necklace, without beginning or end, each bead linked together and pointing forward and backward at the same time. Yes, we know that Jesus would be called Emmanuel; God with us. But do we see the correlation that what God did in the past *points* to Jesus in so very many ways? Sometimes it takes someone else's thoughts to connect the dots to the Old Testament and see more pieces of God's

*Continued on page 3*

# MOVING FROM THE MORAL TO THE MYSTICAL- CON'D ON PAGE 7

By Brother Daniel Maria Klimek, PhD, T.O.R.

I recently heard an inspired priest explain how, as Christians, we cannot stay—in our spiritual lives—at a moral level but must, through growing intimacy with Jesus Christ, come into the mystical. What does this mean? [Editor's note]

We are, of course, called to live moral lives, following God's sacred law, as revealed in the Scriptures, the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and the natural law. No one should oppose that sacred reality. However, what is meant by coming into the mystical is that our faith is not based simply on knowledge but on interior experience with the super-

A person can have all the knowledge in the world. They can have an encyclopedic knowledge of Scripture, the Catechism, Church history and theology—and yet, if they do not possess an *intimate relationship with Jesus Christ* (the kind of relationship that is learned only in the school of prayer, fasting, and contemplative silence) then all their knowledge counts as straw. They would still be missing the most essential knowledge – *mystical knowledge*, which means experiential knowledge: **something that cannot be taught to the intellect but must be encountered by the soul.**

What are the steps, or “tools,” toward growing in mystical knowledge? It is prayer, solitude, fasting, hours spent before the Blessed Sacrament contemplating the presence of the Beloved. There's a difference, the latter is deeper: more affective, intimate, connoting a spiritual relationship between chaste Lovers. The secret to the Christian mystics is that they are persons who do not simply love God, but they are persons who are *in love with God*—the one who has *experienced the fire of God* – the burning encounter with the Holy Spirit – knows what this love means.

**Word of Life is completely dependent upon your donations** to spread the fire of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese of Erie. Your donation, no matter how much, makes a big difference!

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## the **GIFT** a life in the Spirit course

Experience your own Pentecost! The WOL CCRC sponsors ‘The Gift,’ which is a Life In The Spirit Seminar with internationally renowned speakers, an endorsement by the Pope.

The content of ‘The Gift’ received a formal *nihil obstat* from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. This powerful seminar consists of six talks, small group discussions, live worship, and culminating in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**ST. MARY'S**  
1085 Water Street  
Meadville, PA 16335

Friday and Saturday - June 21 and June 22, 2019  
Friday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Saturday 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Register online at:  
<https://www.eriecd.org/wordoflife/thegiftseminar.html>

Holy Father, look upon this humanity of ours that is taking its first steps along the path of the Third Millennium. Its life is still deeply marked by hatred, violence, and oppression, but the thirst for justice, truth, and grace still finds a space in the hearts of many people, who are waiting for someone to bring salvation enacted by You through Your Son Jesus. There is need for courageous heralds of the Gospel, for generous servants of suffering humanity. Send holy priests to Your Church, we pray, who may sanctify Your people with the tools of Your grace. Send numerous consecrated men and women, that they may show Your holiness in the midst of the world. Send holy laborers into Your vineyard, that they may labor with the fervor of charity and, moved by Your Holy Spirit, may bring the salvation of Christ to the farthest ends of the Earth. Amen. May the Lord of the harvest provide many holy priestly and religious vocations for His Church!

—John Paul II—

## SHOW US YOUR GLORY! - GREATER THINGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

— continued from page one

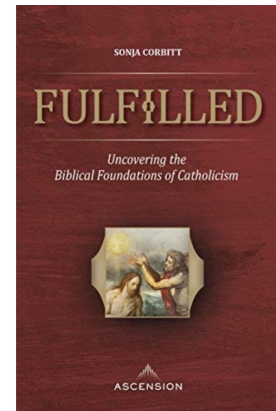
plan come together and make sense. That's how God works. As individuals bring things to light, we see more clearly the rich truths reflected in the teachings of our Catholic faith to guide us and see the bigger plan in all of it. It seems there is a current tidal wave of excellent conferences based on solid teaching. Apologetics, including typology, is on the upswing. It is exciting to get to know the Bible and your faith. Whenever possible, we should strive to avail ourselves of opportunities and learn all we can about our faith. *Learning about God makes the heart grow hungrier for God and more in love with Him*, and the more love we have for anyone, the more we want to learn all we can.

We also had Holy Mass, the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, and prayer teams to meet additional spiritual need. Last, but not least, lunch was incredible! It was delicious. April Blum was our chef of the day. Beautiful Word Of Life shirts were available, in addition to books so we could continue reading on the topic of the day at our own leisure. (Dr. Phillips recommended "Fulfilled" by Sonja Corbitt and referenced some of her material to this source).

Check out the Word Of Life section of the Erie Diocese website for more events like this one under the tab labeled "events." There are several scheduled throughout the year along with other resources. A 'Fan Into Flame' spiritual Gifts Workshop, along with a Life In the Spirit in Meadville (at my Church), are

available in June. Hope to see you there!



Sonja Corbitt's book *Fulfilled*



Show Us Your Glory:  
Dr. Phillips, Moses and Jesus!

Worship:

Louis Nicolai,  
Brianna Erdman,  
Jaci Phillips





# 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 Nicolai; and Organist Corey Spacht  
Celebrant: Rev. Jerry Priscaro

**FAN INTO THE FLAME SEMINAR  
STEPPING OUT IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS**  
Leaders: Jaci Phillips and Pat Montefiori  
**St. Joseph Bread of Life Church - 147 West 24th St, Erie**  
Friday & Saturday, June 7-8, 2019  
Friday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Saturday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
**(SEE PAGE 5)**

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT - THE GIFT**  
**St. Mary's - Meadville, PA**  
Friday & Saturday, June 21-22, 2019  
Friday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Saturday 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

**HEALING MASS**  
**St. Joseph Parish - Warren, PA**  
Friday, June 28, 2019 - 6:00 PM

**HEALING MASSES (SPIRIT-FILLED)**  
**Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group**  
**Holy Rosary Church, 2701 East Ave, Erie**  
Tuesday, August 13, 2019 6:30 PM (Worship 6:15)  
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 6:30 PM (Worship 6:15)

**COME TO JESUS**  
**ADORATION WORSHIP CONCERTS**  
**St. Joseph Bread of Life Church - 147 West 24th St, Erie**  
Free Will Offering to Support Erie Charismatic Renewal/  
Word of Life Center  
Worship by Jaci Phillips, Brianna Erdman and friends with special guest,  
Erie Philharmonic violinist, Louis Nicolai  
Exposition and Benediction by Fr. Johnathan Schmolt  
Friday, September 20, 2019 7 PM - 9 PM

**GREATER THINGS LUNCHEON**  
**St. Joseph Bread of Life Church - 147 West 24th St, Erie PA**  
Saturday, October 19, 2019  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM



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

## † FRIDAY

**Light of the World Community**  
In Home Prayer Meeting  
Call for location 1:00 PM  
T.A. Walkiewicz (814) 833-9717

## † 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 Presents*

# Fan Into Flame Seminar

*STEPPING OUT IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS*

**Friday & Saturday, June 6 & 7, 2019**

6-9 PM Friday, 9 AM-3:30 PM Saturday

Registration (by Thursday, June 6th): \$20

2nd Floor of St. Joseph Bread of Life Community Center  
147 W 24th St, Erie, PA

**REGISTER AT: [WWW.ERIERCD.ORG/WORDOFLIFE/SEMINAR.HTML](http://WWW.ERIERCD.ORG/WORDOFLIFE/SEMINAR.HTML)**

*CALL JOAN AT (814) 616-5735 FOR ASSISTANCE; SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE*

Led by Jaci Phillips and Pat Montefiori, this is a safe and friendly environment to both learn and practice the Gifts. Contrary to what we sometimes think, the Gifts do not necessarily just descend on us in full power at the moment that we are Baptized in the Holy Spirit. We have to step out in them. And that can be a little intimidating in your everyday life. So this is a safe place to learn and to practice; to Fan into the Flame! Bonus session on basics of deliverance included.

# Our Lady of Peace Life in the Spirit Seminar

Word Of Life was honored to coordinate 'The Gift' Life In The Spirit seminar, sponsored by Our Lady of Peace parish in Erie. On May 10th and 11th, about 50 people gathered to experience this spiritually life-changing seminar. The content of the seminar has the distinction of being granted a formal *nihil obstat* from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF). This distinction from the Holy See was granted upon review of the content and it signifies that the CDF formally acknowledges that the content is consistent with Catholic doctrine and teaching. The seminar is also endorsed by Pope Francis. The seminar includes inspired teaching on the importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the faithful and it culminates with participants receiving the 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit' allowing people to walk in their faith in a similar way to the book of Acts. Word Of Life expresses its thanks to Father Rich Toohey and Deacon Joe Yochim for their openness, participation, and assistance with coordination. Please contact Word Of Life if you are interested in sponsoring a Life In The Spirit Seminar at your parish.

*Our Lady of Peace Life in the Spirit Seminar*



*OLP Life in the Spirit: Prayer for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit*



*OLP Life in the Spirit: Giving praise to God*



## Mail in Registration for Fan Into Flame Seminar

**Fan into the Flame Workshop** – Registration deadline is June 3rd  
 Friday, June 7, 2019 (6PM—9PM) & Saturday, June 8, 2019 (8:30AM–3:30 PM)  
 Location: **Please call for Location and Registration**—Joan (814) 616-5735

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:		
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### Fan into the Flame

**COST**—\$20.00  
 (Scholarships Available)

**Please make check or money order payable to:**

### **Word of Life**

**Mail payment to:**  
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 Charismatic Renewal Center  
 429 E. Grandview Blvd  
 Erie PA 16514

## Moving from the Moral to the Mystical - continued from page 2

Br. Daniel Maria Klimek, T.O.R., is a Franciscan friar and an Assistant Professor in the theology department at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. [www.danielklimek.com](http://www.danielklimek.com)

That “knowing” comes not from the hours spent in the classroom, but from the hours spent in the chapel. It holds intimacy, facilitated through a *sacred* encounter.

I want to stress, in this regard, that I am not criticizing “learning” (or hours spent in the classroom – my main ministry is as a professor!)—our Catholic tradition is, after all, based on faith *and* reason. Thus they are both important, the life of

the soul and the life of the mind. I am simply saying that on the spiritual journey—especially if it is to become a *mystical* journey—there is only so far that the mind can take us. At a certain point, we must let go — of our thoughts, convictions, desire to control — and surrender in contemplative silence and stillness, adoring the presence of Jesus in intimate solitude and allowing His grace to touch and transform us in an encounter between God and

soul, Holy Spirit and human spirit: intimacy and union through sweet and supernatural communion.

Br. Daniel Maria Klimek, T.O.R., is a Franciscan friar and an Assistant Professor in the theology department at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. [www.danielklimek.com](http://www.danielklimek.com)

## Break Every Chain!

By Kathryn Wilcox

I excitedly settled into my seat at Michael Brown’s one-day retreat in Oldsmar, Florida; notebook and pen in hand. His talk was about the afterlife, which is the subject of two of his latest books: **THE OTHER SIDE** and **WHAT YOU TAKE TO HEAVEN**. At my age, I spend more time thinking about the afterlife, and of course, I want to go to heaven when I die so I was hoping Michael Brown would provide lots of *easy answers*.

“Chains,” he said. “*It is simple. All your chains must be broken.*” The room was suddenly silent as he continued: “*The biggest chain we all drag around is UNFORGIVENESS.*”

Who have I not forgiven? I began musing. Then he said, “You are **bound** to those you have not forgiven.”

What??? My imagination went into overtime as I pictured myself “*chained*” to quite a few people I really have a problem with. His next statement drove it home even further: “UNFORGIVENESS is a sin.”

I (and others) shifted in my seat. I saw myself sitting in purgatory or hell chained to a large group of undesirables. Yikes!!!!

We are also chained to our sins and what we like to politely call “bad habits” that are really sins. Are we obsessed with food, alcohol, shopping for material things, or just plain old money? How about television? Working too much? Remember the commandment about putting strange gods

before God? Then there are the sins against other commandments - adultery, stealing, gossip (and detraction); the list gets long when we ask the Holy Spirit to start revealing sins that we never think about or never take seriously enough. “*You shall be holy, because I am holy,*” (1 Pet 1:16 BLT, Lev 19:2).

But wait, I thought you couldn’t take anything with you when you die? Wrong. You can take LOVE with you! We carry our acts of love up to heaven; and the more you have loved others with the love of Christ, the higher into the levels of heaven you ascend - higher and higher to God!

Our sins are chains that drag us down; down into lower and lower levels of purgatory or even hell (I know there is a rumor that it doesn’t exist or no one goes there, but that’s simply not what Jesus taught). Again, the more serious the sins, the heavier the chains, and the lower we will sink. A review of Dante’s “Inferno” description of purgatory and hell seems appropriate and can easily be found on the internet.

So, questions answered. Easy, right? We have a choice every day we are on this earth. *This is the testing ground for souls.* This is where there are temptations and sin all around us. We are walking through the valley of the shadow of death. We can choose to wallow in sin here, and forever in eternity, *OR* we can break the chains of sin by going to Christ. Christ died to redeem us; His Blood will *break the chains* and wash away the sins we confess with true

intent to CHANGE through the grace and power Jesus provided by sending us *the Advocate (helper)*; the *Holy Spirit*. There is no ability to overcome habitual sin without turning to Christ for forgiveness and to the Holy Spirit for the grace to walk in freedom from previous chains.

We can’t take anything to heaven, except love. We must enter “washed by the Blood of the Lamb.”

“*Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins,*” (Hebrews 9:22, NRSVCE).

The ONLY path to heaven is forgiveness, of ourselves and of others. We must pray to ask Jesus to reveal our sins to us and to reveal those whom we need to forgive. Then we need to confess our sins so we are cleansed by Jesus’ blood and protected by His Blood. We must pray for those we forgive and those whom we may strongly disagree with. We must ask Jesus to help us sever ties to earthly attachments and focus on Him.

The alternative is to be chained forever, to our sins and to those we have not forgiven.

Jesus, break every chain!!! He will! Amen.





# Word Of Life

Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal Center

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Erie, PA 16514



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## Reflections on 'The Greater Things' June 2019

Reflections is published monthly by:

Word of Life Catholic  
Charismatic Renewal Center  
429 E. Grandview Blvd, Erie PA 16514

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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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### FORMATTING

Elaine Sinnott; Loretta Laufer

Volume XXXIII

Issue No. 05

*Fan into Flame*  
seminar  
*discover and develop Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

Call Joan at (814) 616-5735 for details & location  
June 7 (6 PM-9 PM) and June 8 (9 AM - 3:30 PM)  
Register at:  
[www.eriercd.org/wordoflife/seminar.html](http://www.eriercd.org/wordoflife/seminar.html)