

FAITH ON FIRE!  
Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal Center  
DIOCESE OF ERIE  
429 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16514



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# Reflections

## on "The Greater Things"

May 2024

Reflections is published monthly by:

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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 Holy Spirit-filled Renewal  
throughout the Diocese of Erie.

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

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## WHO YOU SAY I AM—167,000,000 Jaci Phillips, PhD

Early this year I wanted to watch some videos of a song that our worship group, Harmony's House, was learning. It was such a powerful song and I saw people singing it for 20 minutes during the Kentucky Revival. I searched it. When I pulled up the most popular version, I was astonished to see that it had **167,000,000** views!!! I am used to seeing views in the tens of millions for popular worship songs. For comparison, one of the most popular worship songs of all time, "The Blessing," by Kari Jobe, has 89 million views. In fact, if you add the other versions to the 167,000,000, there are well over 200,000,000 views. The only other song I have seen that approaches those numbers is "Oceans."

Perplexed, I asked God what this was all about. Don't you *love* those times when the Holy Spirit answers even before you have the whole question out of your mouth! God said, "the people of God *forget who they are* and they need to know *who they are* in Christ; people are drawn to THIS song *because it reminds them of who they are*." Wow. Ok. Important song to be using during worship. The song??? "**WHO YOU SAY I AM**" by Hillsong. I started to pray about why it is so important that the people of God are reminded of *who they are*. Again, immediate answers. But first, let me share some of the words:

Who the Son sets free - Oh is free indeed! I am a child of God - Yes I am!  
In my Father's house there's a place for me I am a child of God Yes I am!  
I am chosen, not forsaken, I am who You say I am! Y  
ou are FOR me not against me, I am who you say I am!

Don't you LOVE those words???! We LOVE them because THEY ARE TRUTH. But why is it so important that we know this?? Because only when we KNOW the price we were bought with and WHO we belong to, can we actually live with the freedom we have been granted and in the **authority** that comes with it.

On earth we have a legal system that has laws that govern everything. We also have 'laws of nature' that apply to everything. A law of nature is not able to be broken – because it is a *law*.

The spiritual realm also has a legal system. And when you understand this legal system, it is much easier to understand the tactics of the devil and the ways of Jesus, and also our salvation and freedom in Jesus. Having some basic understanding of this legal system also demystifies the workings of the enemy so it's good to understand it without being too focused on it. We should know about the devil, but we should keep our focus on God.

Have you ever seen an a dog who had been tied up and never let free. When someone finally recues them and sets them free, they don't *know* that they were free and they don't *act* like they were free. They don't immediately start running around like puppies, rejoicing in their freeness. They stay within the boundaries of that now imaginary leash that limited them for so long. Even though the people dealing with them were now kind and loving, they remain timid, and submissive, and cowering. Many of us are like those dogs. Jesus set us free, but we don't act like we know it! And Satan LOVES it.

Many Catholic Christians, and even Spirit-filled ones, walk around with an imaginary leash on them, as if they aren't free. The enemy convinces them that there is still a leash around their neck. So, let's talk about the spiritual legal system.

There are angels and demons. Demons are pure evil. They try their best to be a bad influence on us. They set us up to tempt us to sin. There is only one reason for this... Jealousy at WHOSE WE ARE and their desire to steal us from the Father.

The devil knows that Christians who don't know their identity in Christ are not much of a threat to him because they are unaware of the power and authority they carry as a set-free "**child of God**." The devil should be afraid of any believer who knows the authority we carry in Jesus! Many of us walk around meekly, focusing on what the world says we are: unattractive, not important, weak, \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank); what the devil says we are: too bad, too sinful, not holy enough, \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank); or what people have said that we are: no good, impatient, can't do anything right, \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank!).

We walk around with voices in our head that talk to us all the time. "Other people are holy enough to tell the devil to get lost, but I am not." "God is upset with me and rejects me" These voices are leashes. Here's the truth from the song... **You are for me, not against me, I am who You say I am!** We need to

know which voice is telling the truth and which voice is lying. The condemning and accusatory voices are not from God; not truth. The Holy Spirit *convicts* us at times, and sometimes strongly, but even when it is strong, it is with a serious, but loving gentleness.

When there are voices that try to makes us feel that we are a lost cause or beyond His intervention and assistance is not from God or that we have no power or authority... Jesus, remind me (us) today and always that.. **I AM WHO YOU SAY I AM.**

We are children, we are heirs, we are co-heirs with Christ. When someone is an heir, it is legal. In the Bible, if you were a natural firstborn heir in a family, you were legally entitled to the estate of your father. To be a 'co-heir' means that *both* are entitled to the same inheritance. You are both beloved children of the Father so He made a way for us to be brought into His family; without preference. In fact, one of the most amazing things is that, like human parents, while God loved Jesus to the depths of His being, He looked at us who were perishing under the weight of a *law* of sin and death, and he made a spiritual *legal* agreement to buy back His captive children by providing a sacrifice that could perfectly cover sins, unlike the continuous imperfect sacrifices of bulls and goats (see Hebrews). But the cost was so high. Never forget that our Father had to watch His Beloved Son be tortured and die in order to see His other children, us, set free.

Yet by this act of pain and sacrifice of God the Father and of Jesus, a new legal spiritual agreement was ratified. We were 'ransomed.' If you were 'adopted,' that is also a legal agreement. In order to be recognized, it had to go through all of the formal legal steps to have an official standing under the law. Once official, an adopted child has all of the legal rights and privileges of a natural child. One thing about adoption though, adoption happens when someone is young, under 18, NOT an adult. So, we are 'children' of God by adoption. No matter what age we are, we are 're-born' when we are 'born-again' by water and the Spirit. Just like any earthly father, even when a child is full grown, he refers to that child as 'His child.' It is a spiritual law

Now let's take all of this into consideration as we read part of Romans chapter 8:

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the **children of God**. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again [with leashes]; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Rom 8:14). ALLELUIA ! I AM WHO YOU SAY I AM! Let's try to run free without those dang leashes!*

*Faith On Fire! CCRC held a luncheon last August focusing on the realities of the spiritual realm. There was much interest in this topic. We had many requests to continue this teaching. We recognize that teaching about the demonic and heavenly realms is lacking. Faith On Fire! has made a decision to provide a series of teachings on how the spiritual realm works and how to deal with 'issues' in 2024.*

*Join us for our May 25th Greater Things luncheon as Jaci and Father Chris discuss the basics of the spiritual world and office in the Erie Diocese that deals with spiritual afflictions.*







# ✦ GREATER THINGS! ✦

## Luncheon

speakers

**JAGI PHILLIPS, PHD, AND REV CHRIS SINGER**

*At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow - Phil 2:10*



Early Bird 12.50 by 5/13- Regular 14.00 by 5/21  
\$10 at the door but no lunch

Register at- <https://bit.ly/REALM24>  
or call 814-636-1800 to register by phone



**ST JOSEPH BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**147 WEST 24TH ST - ERIE**

**DUE TO  
OVERWHELMING  
NEED, FOF WILL BE  
DEDICATING ALL  
TALKS IN 2024 TO  
UNDERSTANDING  
AND DEALING WITH  
THE SPIRITUAL  
REALM**

# JESUS

**Angels and Demons**  
**9:30 -1PM**  
**147 W 24th ST**

**August 24 - 9:30 - 1**  
**TBA**  
**October 19th 9 - 3**  
**OLP**

**Healing Mass**  
**May 14th - 6:15 PM**  
**St. George, Erie**

**FAITH ON FIRE! CCRC**

"Are any sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them"

*James 5:14*

## HEALING MASS

**WITH:**  
**Father Chris Beran**

FAITH ON FIRE! CCRC, Son God Prayer Group, and St George Parish invite you to celebrate with us

**JOIN US AT:**

St George Church 5145 Peach East St. Erie PA 16509

**Tuesday, MAY 14th at 6:30 PM**

Worship Music by Harmony's House Starting at 6:15 PM  
Doors open at 5:30 PM

**INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS FOR HEALING FOLLOWING THE MASS.**