



Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

NOVEMBER 2019
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"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)

A GOD MOMENT - By Kathryn Wilcox

I got news that none of us ever wants to hear. I was told that one of my oldest and dearest friends had Alzheimer's. My heart fell. I grieved and lamented. Then I decided that, even though I was told that she was not recognizing anyone, I still wanted to visit her. "Take something with you that she will recognize," I was advised. "My rosary," I decided. We used to pray the rosary together. So I went, dreading seeing my beautiful friend in this condition.

I found her in the recreation room of her facility. She was staring out the window, a distraught expression locked on her face, wringing her hands. As I walked towards her, she responded to her name, and then her face lit up into a beautiful smile. SHE KNEW ME!!! We cried and hugged, then cried and hugged some more.

I was careful not to ask questions and instead just kind of rattled on, something I do very well. Then I asked her if she wanted me to pray with her. She was Charismatic when we first met, so I prayed she would remember "praying in tongues." I prayed and she looked up, her face glowing and filled with joy. I continued to pray and suddenly I heard her praying in tongues as well. The connection was still there, her spirit and the Holy Spirit were communing and He was ministering to her. (The mind may forget, but the spirit of God within us does not.) After that we prayed a rosary (her other love) and the words from long ago came back to her.

It was a God Moment!

I later remembered that I had just learned that regular speech comes from our frontal lobe, while praying in tongues, comes from another area of the brain reflecting that normal speech areas of the brain do not produce speaking in tongues. I mentioned this to Dr. Phillips-Sabol (Jaci) and she told me that there is an amazing phenomenon called "terminal lucidity." It is an unexpected return of clarity, or even a state of clarity that never existed in a person, that happens shortly before death in people with severe neurological or psychiatric disorders; whose brains are not capable of producing coherent ideas, such as with dementia or even apparent brain death. Surely this is a distinct phenomenon that proves that, while consciousness may reside in our brains, we are spiritual beings and our spirits (with all of their knowledge) survive both dementia, brain death, and bodily death. Wow.

During subsequent visits, the same thing occurred. Her joy was palpable and the presence of the Holy Spirit was powerful. The person I remembered, the faithful woman who loved Jesus and Mary more than anyone, was still there. The floor nurse came in one day and explained to my friend's daughter and to myself that Sue was a roamer; she seldom stayed in her own room. They would frequently find her by the bedside of a person on the unit who was in distress or pain. She would be sitting there

holding the person's hand, sharing the peace and joy inside of her by just being present with them. She did not need to speak. She was obediently responding to the direction of the Holy Spirit and was bringing His love and peace to others.



My friend passed a short time ago. We had the opportunity to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the dying with her a few days before she passed. At 3 AM (a mercy hour) on September 8, the Blessed Mother's Birthday, she was taken to heaven.

My friend was such a faithful servant to the end and is now with Jesus and Mary. Praise God.

***"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever,"
(PS 73:76, NRSVCE)***

By The Word of Their Testimony

“But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.”
(Revelation 12:11)



COME TO JESUS - TESTIMONY OF LOUISE AND JUSTIN BLOSE - By Kathryn Wil-

Word of Life recently sponsored an Adoration Worship Concert on Friday, September 13th. This was not an event that can be described - it had to be experienced. For those of you who were not there, I will try. First, for any who do not know what this is, for Catholics, Eucharistic Adoration is spending time with Jesus, whom we believe is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in a consecrated host that looks like bread.

***“He who eats my flesh and
drinks my blood abides
in me, and I in him,”***
(Jn 6:56, NAB)

Eucharistic Adoration can be personal, or it can comprise a liturgical service that is both beautiful and powerful. Some well-known Catholics, such as Saint (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta and Venerable Fulton Sheen, spent a minimum of two hours a day in prayer before the physical presence of our Lord, to which they both attributed the success of their ministries. It is intimate prayer before God where we reach out to Him with our hearts and He responds with total love.

That evening, music from organ, violin, and voices lifted high praise and worship to Jesus. Prayers, both formal and informal, were also offered.

We were blessed with the personal testimony from Justin and Louise Blose, parishioners of St Joseph's Church Bread of Life Community, who attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar at Our Lady of Peace Parish in May. We loved their account of how it was a “God Incident” that they were even able to attend. Justin and Louise had been asked to share a brief

testimony at the adoration event, but a schedule check made a huge roadblock apparent: Justin is a football coach and their boys play football, AND the games are always on Friday nights. But Louise prayed for there to be a way for them to attend. She was so excited when she got a text the Monday before the event alerting her that the game had been postponed until Saturday. This allowed the whole family, including their five boys, Louise's twin sister Bernadette Walters and her son, to attend the adoration concert. Louise explained that cancelling and rescheduling of Friday football games has *never happened before!* With God ALL THINGS are possible.

The rest of the story is an amazing account of heaven touching earth. After the couple spoke, Louise shared with me that she went back to her seat and became overwhelmed with the presence of Jesus as the music and prayers continued. Towards the end, Fr. Jerry Priscaro took the monstrance off of the altar and began processing around the church while the worship continued. Louise said she heard the singing escalate, especially with *children's voices*, until they *filled the church*. She quickly looked around and was surprised to see that her children were the only ones in the church that evening. She expected to see children behind her.

After the event, this amazing story came into view. On their way home in separate cars, and then at home, the family slowly shared and compared their personal experiences with each other and realized that *several* of the family members heard children's voices. Their oldest boy, 17, said that he distinctly heard a “celestial

sound echoing in the church,” which he has never heard before that was distinctly separate from the music being played. All their boys, and Bernadette and her son, related that *they also heard children singing*. Their 11-year-old also explained that he has been studying the solar system in science class, and during adoration had the realization that the Blessed Mother is like the moon, reflecting the Love of God for the entire world. Louise added that she distinctly felt that the children's voices filling the church, *that they all heard*, were the voices of unborn children in heaven worshipping Jesus with everyone in the church.

Heaven touched earth, and wow! I am so glad I was there. While I was not graced with hearing the children's voices, I felt the powerful presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit with us as we lifted up our hearts and voices to Lord of lords and King of kings.

***“Then I heard
every creature
in heaven and on
earth... singing,
'to the one seated
on the throne and
to the Lamb, be
blessing and honor
and glory and
might forever
and ever!'"***

(Rev 5:13, NRSVCE,
emphasis added)

HE IS LISTENING - By Louise Blöse

***"In my distress
I called out: Lord!
I cried out to my God,"***
(Psalm 18:7, NAB)

It was January, the start of a new year, filled with so much promise, but I could not feel it. I was on my knees, crying out to God in my distress, "Is this all you have for me? Is this all you want of me? If this is it, OK. Your will be done."

I am a stay at home mom, and in January my youngest was in first grade. I was weathering the storm of feeling unimportant, unneeded, useless, and I was sinking. I was remembering when my children were younger and needed my constant attention. I felt a closeness to Jesus and his beautiful Mother as I contemplated their early life together as I mothered my young family. But early in the year I was at such a loss as to what God wanted of me in my now quiet house.

I cried out to God, and with a heart close to breaking, I accepted the will of the Father in complete obedience of His plan for me... whatever it was. As I pulled myself off the ground and wiped the tears from my face, a deep peace settled in my soul. I had given over everything to the Lord and I was exhausted.

***"From his temple he heard
my voice: my cry to him
reached his ears,"***
(Ps 18:7, NAB)

I noticed a change in myself. I was used to filling my extra time with EWTN and Ascension YouTube videos for that 'extra boost of God' during the day. But that was no longer enough. As I renewed my devotion to the rosary, a feeling of calm descended on the house when I prayed. I started to really *read* the Bible instead of just flipping it open for a verse here and there. I *wanted* to go to daily Mass and also felt drawn

to Adoration. I was looking for more all around me, I wanted more of God. Unbeknownst to me, my husband was feeling that same hunger.

My husband and I were both brought up in the Catholic faith but my religious experience didn't start and end with weekly Sunday Mass. I grew up saying the family rosary and going to confession regularly. We had crucifixes hanging in our bedrooms and pictures and statues of Jesus and Mary all over the house. I had consecrated myself to the Blessed Mother using St. Louis deMontfort's True Devotion and made a *Life In the Spirit* (many years ago), which brought a beautiful outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit into my life. So when my husband and I were married, I took the lead in all things spiritual. It wasn't that he didn't have his own personal relationship with Jesus and his own devotions; it was more that I was the driving force of prayer and religion in the family.

As the year was moving along we were both searching for a deepening of our faith with the Lover of our souls, and we saw that a *Life In the Spirit* was being offered at a parish close to us. There was a marked difference at this point; it was my husband who was excited to go and pushing to make room for it in our busy schedule. God sent us a signal grace by giving us a free weekend, so we went. *And God showed up!* He *lit us on fire* with love for Him. Because of this my husband sought out a spiritual director who in turn challenged him to be the spiritual head of the family. This had been a desire so deep in my soul I did not even have the words to express it to God, but God knew.

When I called out to Him and surrendered all to Him with open hands, letting everything go, he started to put into *order* what had been *disordered*. In our marriage vows I had promised to obey my

husband. Something that, even as a strong woman, I have never had a problem with. However, I did not recognize that this leadership should have extended to our spiritual lives. St. Paul writes "*Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness to them,*" (Colossians 3:18-19, NAB). God has directed my husband to be the spiritual head and to carry the greater responsibility for our children's spiritual welfare.

***"He reached down from on high
and seized me: drew me out of the
deep waters. He rescued me from
my mighty enemy, from foes too
powerful for me. They attacked
me on my day of distress, but the
Lord was my support. He set me
free in the open; he rescued me
because he loves me,"***

(Ps 18:17-20, NAB)

God is so good! He answers prayers to the most complete perfection. God has filled me with His assurance that He is not finished with me! He has emboldened me to claim His spiritual gifts and blessings in my life and to proclaim His holy name while using those gifts inside and outside of my home. God has also brought me increased love for my husband, as I witness his *fast forward* growth in the Holy Spirit and his deepening love and prayer (and our prayer), for both our children and each other. God was listening to me. He continues to listen to me. And He does this because He loves me! AND HE LOVES YOU TOO!

*Have no
Doubt,
He is listening!*

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN, THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON PRAYER! (PART 2)

By Kathryn Wilcox—interview with Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD

(See 9/2019 Edition of Reflections for Part I)

Kathy: Dr. Newburg claims that different areas of the brain are stimulated when we pray in tongues? Is that correct? And what areas are those? What do those areas control?

Dr. Sabol: Dr. Newburg evaluated brain function comparing subjects speaking in tongues. The left hemisphere, which typically controls speech, becomes less active while speaking in tongues. This is consistent with the experience of people who speak in tongues describing that it is a language or sound that is under their control to start or stop, but the particular speech that is produced during tongues is supernaturally directed by the Holy Spirit.

Kathy: I also read that praying can help our immune systems and that particular chemicals are released in the brain.

Dr. Sabol: Prayer increases neurotransmitters in our brains that are responsible for improved mood and sense of wellbeing. While we pray, areas in our brain that are associated with the experience of pleasure, called ‘reward centers’ are also activated. In general, the experience of stress has negative effects on the brain which decreases immunity.

There is an interesting study with patients who have HIV. Those who turned to God and relied on their faith showed dramatically better viral loads and other markers for HIV than did those who didn’t express an active faith. While there are different interpretations regarding results of these studies (with the exception of the intercessory prayer study and pregnancy), to someone like myself, who is trained in the Scientist-Practitioner model where skepticism and the ability to remain objective are key, but who has also had a strong faith throughout my entire life, the

results simply confirm what I, and you too, already know. Why? LOL! Because the Bible tells us so! God is real. He said to come to Him with everything in prayer. He said to have faith. The Bible, from beginning to end is a literal chronicle of miracles. Two thirds of the verses in Acts are related to supernatural events!

When I was in college, my mother asked me to sing for a Mass. I did not know, nor had I ever been to, a “healing Mass.” While I had had spiritual experiences my whole life, including sitting on my bedroom floor as a child and singing in a language I did not know, but I KNEW God understood it and I felt this sense of complete peace (I had no exposure to anything charismatic until I was in my mid 20s), and also, when my faith was challenged as a young teenager, I found myself giving complex answers about my faith and thinking to myself... “I don’t know how I know this, nobody taught this to me, but I KNOW it’s correct.”

Anyway, at the end of Mass this little elderly priest named Fr. Lubey started to say... “There’s someone here who has a knee problem and God is going to heal them,” Smack in the middle of my ‘scientist-practitioner’ training, I said “this guy is crazy!” Then he started to pray over people at my little Italian parish as I watched people ‘rest in the Spirit.’ I had explanations for everything. I said “they are falling because they want to fall” or “he is pushing them.” I did not want to go up for any... ‘*laying on of hands*.’ My mother convinced me to go up with her. I mostly went up to PROVE that there was nothing real about it. She was to my right. When the priest laid his hands on her, I FELT IT. Then he got to me (God knew I needed this in a way that I couldn’t dismiss) the priest did not even get his hands on my head before I felt

this energy go from my head straight through to my feet. As it did I had no muscle tone in my legs. I went to the ground as someone *caught* me and I *rested in the Spirit*. I did not understand what happened. I just laid there and felt the love and peace of the Living God engulf me.

That spurred me on to begin to research what happened to me and that is how I became a part of the Charismatic Renewal. So, in essence I was a case-study for myself. I could never deny the realness of what happened that day or what happened as a child as I sang in tongues or the realness of any of the other things that happen during my day (and yours too) that let me know that I have, not just an experience but a relationship with a real Person. Actually, Three people who ARE ONE; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. But I never knew the true role of the Holy Spirit until I felt God’s physical power at that Mass and was later baptized in the Holy Spirit.

It takes *faith* to believe in something we can’t see. It’s a wonderful thing that there is now some scientific evidence to support that speech areas of the brain are not active during tongues, that intercessory prayer has an effect, that faith and prayer improve your outlook and immune system, but this area of science will continue to be debated for years to come. Maybe scientists will attribute all of this to something besides God. We don’t know. So, while it is wonderful, I suggest that we remain focused on Jesus’ words to Thomas: “*You believe because you have seen, but blessed is he [or she] who has not seen and still believes.*” No one has to prove to me that God is real.

An interesting fact is that, even if research proved there was a God, many people would still not believe. And even if research believed had

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN, THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON PRAYER! (PART 2)

By Kathryn Wilcox—interview with Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD—Continued from page 4

proven that there is no God, that we were created by chance, or by aliens, or by whatever... those people who know there is a God would still die rather than deny that faith. ***“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”*** St. Thomas Aquinas

Kathy: Ok now I am going to ask another question. I have not seen anything anywhere about it. Is there any available information about a change in other people's brains when we pray for them??

Dr Sabol: Every experience we have in life has an effect upon our brain. Repeated experiences create pathways and can reshape the way we think, and many other things. There is evidence of effect on the way we think acting on the chemistry of another person. There is research showing that when deeply attached couples are in different rooms, when one of the two is shown a picture of the one whom their souls loves, there are physiological changes in the other person, such as heart rate and temperature. The research is very strong and could not be by chance.

There is also remarkable evidence of the effect of positive versus negative speech on water. Uncooked rice is poured into three containers of water and sealed for a period of months. During the day, one bottle receives positive affirmations, such as “You are so good! Look how good you are doing!” Or “I love you.” Another bottle is ignored, and the third one receives reprimands, such as “You’re no good. You don’t do anything right. I hate you.” The water that receives the reprimands is so rancid at the end that some of the people vomit when they open it. The ignored rice also does not fair well. In case after case

of this experiment, the affirmed rice looks very good. Some of it looks as if you could take a fork and eat it.

I think we know very little of what there is to know about how prayer, or even our positive or negative words, affects someone. But I think it is logical to think that it does. We already know about the water and rice. Human beings are made up primarily of... you guessed it! Water! It makes perfect sense to me when we think about the awful affect that abusive words have on a spouse, a



friend, or a child. There is a reaction and it is not a good one. Once again, the Bible reflects that God is aware of things that we could not prove:

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you,” (Eph 4:32) and “speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,” (Eph 5:19) and “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Phil 4:8).

Research is important. Research is interesting. But even as I have answered all of your questions, the important thing is that your faith did not depend on it! If it did, it wouldn’t be faith.

***“Faith is...
the evidence of things
NOT SEEN”!
Amen? Or amen!
AMEN!***

Jesus, Son of God, in whom the fullness of the Divinity dwells, You call all the baptized to “put out into the deep,” taking the path that leads to holiness.

Waken in the hearts of young people the desire to be witnesses in the world of today to the power of your love. Fill them with your Spirit of fortitude and prudence, so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation. Our Savior, sent by the

Father to reveal His merciful love, give to your Church the gift of young people who are ready to put out into the deep, to be the sign among their brothers of Your presence which renews and saves. Holy Virgin, Mother of the Redeemer, sure guide on the way towards God and towards neighbor, You who pondered his word in the depth of your heart, sustain with your motherly intercession our families and our ecclesial communities, so that they may help adolescents and young people to answer generously the call of the Lord.
Amen.

2nd Annual Donation Drive December 2019

Do good....

**Be rich in
good works....**

BE GENEROUS....

Ready to share....

(1 Timothy 6:18)

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Center will hold an annual appeal for donations next month. Word of Life's goal is to see every person come fully alive in their faith through the power of the Holy Spirit. We simply cannot do this without your help. We rely almost entirely upon the faithfulness of regular donations from you. Please pray and consider a regular monthly donation, or a one time gift. We greatly appreciate any gift, big or small.

Contributions can be made by check, text, Tithe.ly app, and on the website.

Checks can be made payable to:

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



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Text the word “give” to our dedicated giving number:
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In the app store search for “tithe.ly” - “create account”
In ‘find a church’ search for and select
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Website contributions:

<https://www.eriecd.org/wordoflife/donate.html>
Click on the green “give” button

Give

On behalf of the Board of Directors of WOL CERC



God Bless You

upcoming events

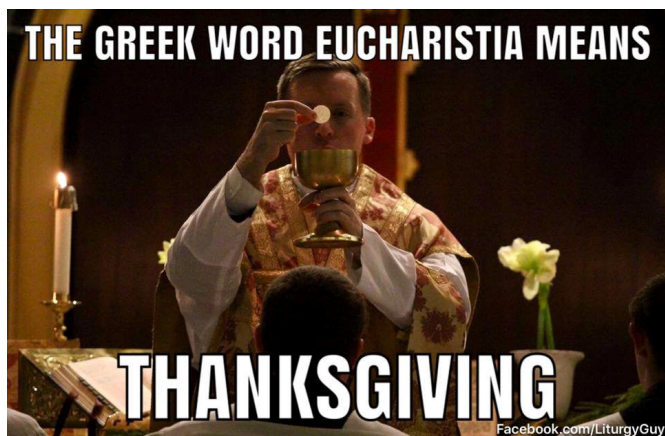
First Saturday of the Month
Mass in honor of Our Lady
 9:00 AM at St. Gregory's, Northeast, PA
 Sacred Music beginning at 8:50 AM
 Music provided by: Soloist, Jacqueline Phillip;
 Violinist, Louis Nicolai and Organist Corey Spacht
 Celebrant: Rev. Jerry Priscaro

Word Of Life annual membership meeting

Thursday, November 21st
 6:30pm

3656 Bellaire Dr. Erie, 16506
Please join us!

HAPPY 'THANKSGIVING'! 'Eucharist'



Please take time to thank God for what we are most grateful for: For sending His only begotten Son to offer each of us the opportunity of eternal life with Him in heaven.

Consider starting your Thanksgiving Day with Mass. In Erie, St Joseph Church Bread of Life Community has Mass Thanksgiving Day at 9:00am



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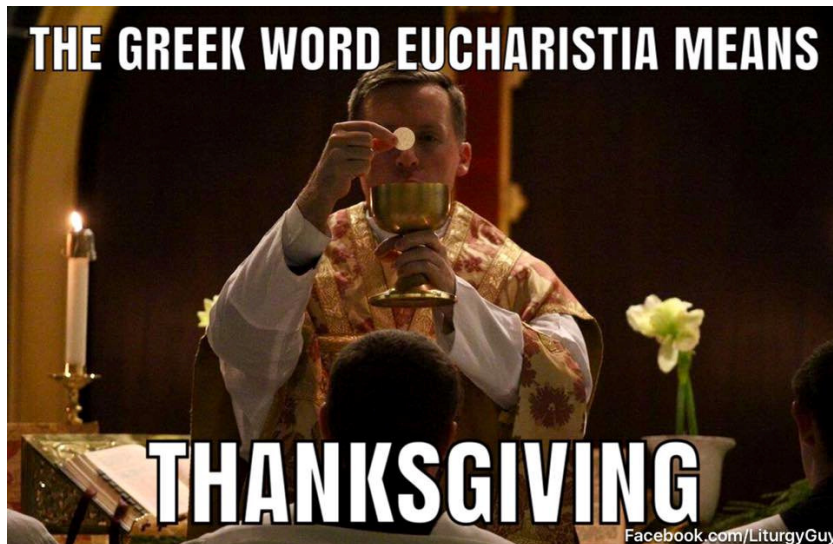
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The office is generally open limited hours.
Please call before coming.

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.**

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