



Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

MAY 2021

Volume XXXV 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)

THIS IS THE LAMB OF GOD By: Thomas Braeger

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
(1 Peter 8:9)

Could there be a more beautiful gift our Lord has given to us than receiving Him and believing in his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity each time we attend Mass?

I recently attended a very powerful presentation given by Dr. Jaqueline Phillips. She discussed numerous Eucharistic miracles and the scientific evidence related to them. She explained how God has given us miracles of Eucharistic miracles over the ages in which the host has changed into actual flesh, and not just any flesh, but heart tissue from the left ventricle. This is the part of the heart that sends the blood to nourish the rest of the Body. Could there be any more sensible place where our Lord feeds his Body, the church, than from his Sacred (and real) Heart?

Top scientists analyzed samples in blind studies and agreed that two of the tissue samples are from the same person and the blood type (AB) is consistent with the person of the shroud of Turin. Yes, even though there was a span of 700+ years between the age of the tested samples, they were from the same person. That's not all.... ***the blood and tissue were not dead, but alive!*** Further tests revealed that they could establish maternal DNA, but not the paternal. In other words, a mother could be identified but THE spiritual Heavenly Father remains beyond the capability of science to measure!

There are miracles unfolding around us each day. Will you hear about them in the media? Likely not, as they appear to have little interest in promoting "religion" or anything to do with God. The culture seems to be moving more

and more away from God. Ignore the culture and seek to understand that the Living God is around us each and every day. There is no doubt in my mind. As Christians, part of our mission is to convince others of the realness of God. These miracles provide a great way, backed by scientific evidence, to have conversations that begin to open peoples' eyes to our amazing God.

Consider the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is filled with miracles that defy explanation. The cactus fiber cloak of Saint Juan Diego has an image that cannot be explained by science other than the Hand of the Living God had to have created it. A similar cactus fiber cloak would disintegrate to dust in much less than 100 years; this has been tested in experiments. So nearly 500 year later, the image created by the Hand of the Living God is still present and visible to all who visit it day after day. The gift of the Eucharist is the same: each day, at each Mass we are fed by Living God of the universe!

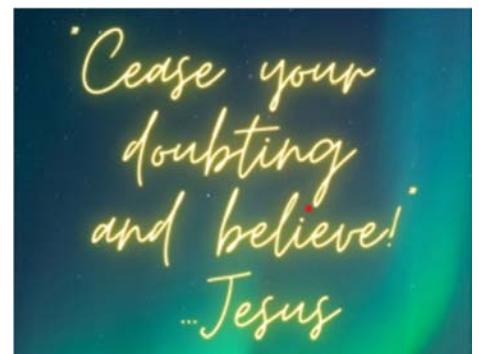
Amen, amen I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you will not have life within you.
(John 6:53)

Dr. Phillips went on to explain the practice of the Israelites of sacrificing to God animals whereby the blood would fall upon the top of the Ark of the Covenant and what is known as the Mercy Seat of God. The blood was sprinkled by the priest once a year on the top of the Ark for the forgiveness of their sins. In the fullness of time God gave us His Son, *the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*, and His blood was spilled for the forgiveness of our sins.

I once heard a talk given a former Jewish woman who converted to Catholicism. In her talk she described the sacrificing of the lamb in the days before Moses received the 10 Commandments; before the Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat

existed. She explained her conversion this way. In the days after Abraham but before Moses they would take a lamb to sacrifice to God. When they held the lamb by the neck and severed the vessels in the neck, their sins were washed away as the blood flowed from the lamb. As they understood it, the sin would pass from their body or soul and was washed away by the blood of the lamb offered to God in atonement for their sins. When someone came into her life who explained how Christ's blood washes us clean of our sins, she had an *extreme* epiphany. The connection between Old and New Testament became clear and she found the *Lamb of God*, her Messiah, and her life was never the same again.

Right after the Eucharistic Miracles event I attended afternoon Mass. I was kneeling after the Lord's prayer and had a vision of sorts. The priest held up the Eucharist and said: **Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**" I saw our Lord's broken body on the altar and His blood dropping on the Mercy Seat of God and making atonement for our sins. The Mass, for me, will never be the same ever again. Consider that we actually SEE him, Body (heart), Blood (living, type AB), Soul, and Divinity (King of kings and Lord of lords, our new and perfect High Priest), each time we attend Mass and receive Communion. Never cease to take this reality in and be amazed!



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)*

EUCHARIST: REAL? YES!!! By Kathy Wilcox

I was blessed to be free to attend the Word Of Life 'Greater Things' Luncheon on Eucharistic Miracles. Wow. Jaci Phillips-Sabol shared one miracle after another, memories came flooding back. Vicka, standing on the stairs of her family home in Medjugorje, when I was there in 1989, and responding to a questioner: "why are so many people leaving the catholic church?" "Because", she said with sadness, "They do not know what they have."

I was blessed with my own experience of Jesus presence in the host; I actually felt power coming from the monstrance as our parish priest walked down the aisle for our closing of Eucharistic day

many years ago. I experienced the same power as I listened to Jaci talk about the power of God that transforms bread and wine into scientifically proven flesh and blood. Jesus presence and power filled the room so heavily that I could hardly stand. God blessed the day, confirming all that she was sharing.

If you or someone you know is struggling with belief in the Real Presence, there will be an encore presentation on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 6, 2021, at 1:00pm at St Joseph's Church Bread of Life Community. Trust me when I say that your spiritual eyes will be opened and your heart will know the truth!

ENCORE Presentation

In honor of Corpus Christi Sunday

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES

***"My flesh is real food and my
blood is real drink"***

Come in 'believing.' Walk out 'BELIEVING!'

Intro by Fr Joe Petrone

Speaker: Jaci Phillips PhD

Sunday June 6, 1-2:30

St Joseph Church Bread of Life Community Center

147 W 24th ST, ERIE

This is a free event. Join us and please bring people who would like to hear the research evidence of the miracles and increase their belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist



Word of Life Presents

Fan Into Flame Seminar

STEPPING OUT IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Friday & Saturday, June 18 & 19, 2021

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

Registration (by Wednesday, June 16th): \$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

CALL T.A. AT (814) 824-1282 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 in to Flame*. Bonus session on basics of deliverance included.

UNFORGIVENESS By Sandy Greggs

They say unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping that the other person dies. And yet we keep pouring ourselves drink after drink of this toxic brew.

You can spot an unforgiving person a mile away. They never smile. Their faces are taut. They wreak of bitterness. And the negativity rewards them with higher rates of digestive and heart problems, among other things.

When we fall into unforgiveness and glance into a mirror, we won't recognize the person staring back at us. And still, we foolishly seek revenge. We have been wronged and want to strike back, determining that we hurt and *so should they*. This is not Christ's example to us.

It is never easy to forgive a wrong done to us, but let's take a good look at Jesus, even if you are someone who doesn't believe that He wasn't the son of God. Even if you believe He was a madman. Even if you believe He was no more than a historical figure trying to make a name for Himself. And especially if you never taken the time to *know* Him.

Jesus is the Ultimate in forgiveness. He was betrayed by those closest to Him. He was ridiculed, beaten, spat upon, made to wear a crown of thorns and hung on a cross until His life poured out of Him.

What was His crime? Was it turning water into wine? Was it healing people of illnesses? Was it raising people from the dead? I ask again, what was His crime?

If we think we have it rough, we needn't look further than Jesus. He forgave everything. He knew His mission and He accomplished it with love and forgiveness.

It's not easy. We need the power and assistance of the Holy spirit. We need grace and mercy. We need love. Because we are called to do the same. To love our neighbors even if they have wronged us. To show mercy. To forgive over and over again until that poisonous cup no longer exists.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Luke 6:32-36, NIV

WHERE THERE'S GOD'S WILL, HE WILL PROVIDE A WAY By: Elaine Sinnott

Elaine Sinnott shares how God overcame many obstacles when she opened her hands to accept His will for her family.



Image used: <https://unsplash.com/photos/zNFT3o8HWks>
Photo by Jessica Lewis on Unsplash

To Homeschool or Not to Homeschool?

I had homeschooling on my heart for a year before the 2020-2021 school year began. I was wrestling with God throwing many excuses at him.

“There’s no way Caleb will listen to me the same way he listens to his teachers.”

“How do I know if it’s for me? If it’s what you want me to do?”

“How do I convince my husband?”

“If I homeschool, I can only be comfortable with it if we use a specific curriculum. How on EARTH would we come up with the money for that?”

“It might be worse for our family if my kids are home all the time with me. Sometimes I think my head is going to explode with all the chaos.”

Through asking all these questions and throwing all these excuses God’s way, I was reminded he has a sense of humor. I’ve learned this time and time again. You’d think it would stick with me!

God Answers Me

Covid hit and I experienced Caleb, my oldest son who was in second grade at the time, being home from school from March to June. Caleb did so well and was extremely motivated for school. We were also blessed with an incredible teacher who made things very easy to follow. It wasn’t difficult to have him finish his work each day. He listened to me when I said it was time to do his work with no issues. God addressed that concern.

A week before Caleb was to begin third grade and our twin boys to begin kindergarten at our local public school, which I LOVED, I started listening to Mother Miriam on the Station of the Cross radio station. And of course, someone brought up homeschooling. I

then emailed her and simply asked “How do I know if I am called to homeschool? I’ve talked to many mothers and I heard them either say ‘I knew I was called to homeschool’ or ‘I knew it wasn’t for our family.’ How do I know what my call is?”

She actually answered my question on the air the next day! And she said, “This is a great question. You know you are called to homeschool if you are a mother.” I was taken back by that. The she went further saying “You may have gone to public school and turned out fine, but schools are VERY different now than they used to be.” God answered that question, too.

It just so happened I was surrounded by a group of friends from our parish who homeschool (I see what you did there, Lord) and began asking lots of questions. I decided I loved the Seton Home Study curriculum because everything was already laid out for me. But two huge obstacles remained, that seemed impossible to overcome. My boys were supposed to start school the following week and I had no idea how to convince my husband, whose faith is not as strong as my own, to allow me to homeschool. And I also had no idea where we’d get the extra \$1,000 to pay for the curriculum for the three boys. That was not something we had budgeted for.

I prayed and prayed and prayed. I asked my husband and he asked that I allow him some time to think about it. A couple days later, he and I went on a nice date, bike riding and then dinner afterwards. At dinner he suddenly said, “Your reasons for wanting to homeschool are morally better than my reasons for not wanting them to be homeschooled.” I was in shock. God addressed that hurdle as well.

But I *still* had no idea where we’d get the money for it. Then my husband said, “I just found out I’m getting a bonus next week.” Turns out it was \$970. *Alright, Lord! I’m hearing you loud and clear!*

Swimming in God’s Will

The day we officially decided to homeschool and order our curriculum, we also found out we were expecting baby number six. To say I was overwhelmed was an EXTREME understatement. *You’re just going to throw a little more of Your Will in the mix aren’t you, Lord?* But I gave it to God, trusted in what he was asking of us, and tried not to think

about how I’d homeschool through morning sickness.

I began our school year completely insecure about everything, but as the weeks went on, it became very natural to us. My boys were extremely motivated to get their work done, which I know is a huge blessing. A few times already, I’ve come downstairs in the morning and Caleb has said, “Mom, I finished these three subjects while you were all still asleep.”

And I realized that instead of it being worse for our family if the kids were home all the time, I noticed I was becoming *more* patient with them. I was learning more about them, about how they learn, about what they are learning. And Caleb at one point, while studying one of his daily religion lessons on the archangels and guardian angels, said to me, “Mom, I really like this.” My heart burst.

God Truly Knows Best

I learned that if I opened myself to what God wanted for me and my family, if I gave Him my “yes”, He took care of the rest. He always does and always will. Homeschooling may not be in God’s will for every family, but God no doubt wanted it for my own. He provided everything we needed when I opened my hands to what he asked of me.

Trust in God, dear mommas. If something is on your heart, talk to God about it and be very open to his will for you. Tell Him your fears about that nudge he’s giving you because they are very real to him as well. Be honest; He completely understands. He knows what is best for you and absolutely WILL provide if you’re open to his plan for you and your family.

Is there something on your heart you feel God is calling you to? Are you avoiding it or embracing it? Have you sat down in the stillness and had a conversation with God about it? Consider journaling, starting with prayer, and seeing where



The gift

"I expect you to share with everyone in the church, the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit."

POPE FRANCIS

a life in
the spirit course



Are you hungry for more of God?

THERE IS MORE!

Join us for this Life in the Spirit course and experience 'The Gift' God has for you!

There is no charge for this course.

Call to register:

Virgina from Holy Redeemer - (814) 968-5341

Theresa (T.A.) at Word of Life - (814) 824-1286

Registrations appreciated by

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Accessible to persons with disabilities.

Free Will Offering

Friday, May 21, 2021

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, May 22, 2021

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Holy Redeemer Parish

11 Russell St. Warren PA

Sponsored by:

Word of Life

Catholic Charismatic
Renewal Center

www.eriecd.org/wordoflife



What is 'The Gift'?

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. "Pope Francis wishes to convey his prayers and good wishes for a successful and inspiring launch of 'The Gift' A Life In The Spirit Resource" (February 2015). There is also a formal nihil obstat given to one of the primary authors and speakers, Charles Whitehead. This powerful seminar consists of six talks, small group discussions, live worship, and culminating in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

What is a Life In the Spirit seminar?

Add a little bit oMost people, just like the Apostles, would say that they were not even aware that there was 'more' life before they experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Word of Life CCRC desires to see every believer experience the same fullness of the Holy Spirit that the believers and Apostles experienced on Pentecost! If you are not aware that God has 'more' for you. HE DOES! The outpouring of the Holy Spirit transformed ineffective believers from the moment that they were filled with the Fire of the Holy Spirit. At the moment that the Holy Spirit rushed upon them like a wind, they were suddenly filled with a burning love and passion to share everything that they knew about Jesus and the gospel of good news. And signs and wonders, which occurred by the power of the Holy Spirit followed them from the moment that the Holy Spirit filed them. [Please add all of the Pope quotes at the bottom of the letter we have posted, including "Renew Your wonders in our day, oh Lord, as by a new Pentecost!" (Pope Saint John XXIII)]

Registration form for Word of Life/Holy Redeemer Event: The Gift

Name (Print): _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Please send registration form and enclosed event fee to the Word of Life Office:

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

OR-

Give to Holy Redeemer office

Registration by May 19th appreciated. Please bring a lunch for Saturday

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

HEALING *Spirit Filled* MASS

Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group
Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave, Erie

Tuesday—May 11, 2021
Worship 6:15 Mass 6:30

Life In The Spirit

Holy Redeemer, Warren PA
Friday and Saturday, May 21 & 22, 2021

Greater Things Encore Presentation

"CHURCH OF MIRACLES"

St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center
Saturday, June 6th, 2021
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Fan Into The Flame Seminar

St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center
Friday & Saturday - June 18 - 19, 2021

Worship Concert

St. George's Church, Erie PA
Thursday, September 16, 2021

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.

—John Paul II—

You Can Help Make a Difference

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!

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



Contributions via text:
Text the word "give" to our dedicated giving number: **(570) 536-9187**



Tithe.ly app on your phone:

Apps for Tithe.ly are available for both iPhones and Android Phones In the app store search for "tithe.ly" - "create account"
In 'find a church' search for and select **"Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center"**



Website contributions:

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

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Reflections

on 'The Greater Things'

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Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group
Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave, Erie PA

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Reflections is published monthly by:

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429 E. Grandview Blvd, Erie PA 16514

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website: www.eriecd.org/wordoflife
www.facebook.com/wolccrc

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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