



# Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

SEPTEMBER 2021  
Volume XXXV Issue No. 08

*"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)*

## HAVE YOU LOST THE ARK? By: Father Marc Hoffmann, St. Boniface, Erie, PA

Aside from maybe watching the Indiana Jones movie, "Raiders of the Lost Ark," most of us have probably given little thought to the Ark of the Covenant from the Old Testament. And before you ask, no, nothing in the bible indicates that opening the Ark results in an explosion of angry ghosts and laser beams that vaporize people - though that scene in the movie is pretty cool. That said, the movie does get one thing right: the Ark is sacred. It belongs completely to God and serves his purpose alone. That purpose is to house the stone tablets on which Moses wrote the words of the covenant God made with the Israelites on Mt. Sinai. The covenant is God's saving bond with his people. The Ark is the visible way that God remains present with his people, constantly renewing his covenant with them.

That being so, we can see why we would have readings about the Ark on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. God became present with his people in the Old Testament in and through the Ark. God became present to his people in the New Testament in and through Mary, taking flesh in her womb and being born in Jesus Christ to forge a new covenant with his people. Like the Ark, Mary belongs completely to God to serve his purpose alone, and, when she had done so, bringing Christ into the world, sharing in his ministry, and even his suffering, she was blessed with the grace of being taken up completely, body and soul, into glory with him.

But just as God did not stop being present with his people when they

lost the Ark, carried away by foreign invaders as punishment for the people's infidelity, so he did not stop being present with his people when Jesus ascended into glory and assumed his mother into heaven with him. Before he left them, Jesus gave his disciples a new Ark, a new way for God to be visibly present with his people - he gave them the Eucharist. As Catholics, we believe with all our heart that Jesus Christ is present for us, body, blood, soul, and divinity, in the Eucharist. We call this the real presence of Christ, not that the many other ways we experience Christ's presence with us aren't real, but Christ's presence in the Eucharist is real as opposed to purely symbolic. The cross above the high altar is just a symbol, reminding us of how Christ saves us but not actually making Christ present. The Eucharist that we celebrate on the altar and that we keep below that cross in the tabernacle is NOT just a symbol. It IS Christ, truly present with us in a way unlike any other on earth.

And if you think that's impressive, hold onto your seats, because this will really blow your mind. God doesn't stop there. When we celebrate Mass and receive the Eucharist, God becomes present IN US. How amazing is that?! God, the immortal, eternal, all-powerful creator and ruler of all that is, comes and makes his dwelling with us when we celebrate and receive the Eucharist. Now, do the math. If God is present in us, what does that make us? Arks of the covenant, who, like Mary, are called to bring Christ into the world, to share in his ministry, suffering and death, and ultimately to share body and soul in his glory.

This is one of the worst tragedies of

the Covid-19 pandemic. Not only has it caused millions of deaths and immeasurable damage to people's physical wellbeing, but, even more tragically, it has kept people away from the Eucharist, denying us the presence of God and preventing us from making him present in a world that so desperately needs him. I'm not just talking about the shut down, which kept practically all of us from the Eucharist. Even now, months after public Masses have resumed, the virus is still keeping so many people away.

That has to change, and it has to change now. We can't wait for the world around us to change or for some unidentifiable benchmarks to be met: the so-called experts at the CDC can't make up their minds about what is supposed to keep us safe and what isn't; politicians keep moving the goalposts in whatever direction they think will win them votes; media outlets keep pounding the panic button to raise ratings and sell copy; and it all accomplishes nothing but confusion, fear, and unrest.

We have to take our destiny into our own hands, or, rather, into God's hands who is present in us. We need to unite ourselves with the saving sacrifice that we celebrate at Mass, and forgo our own personal political beliefs and preferences for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ. For those who have returned to Mass, that means complying with the safety protocols that the Bishop asks of us. Even if we think those protocols are unnecessary, out of love for our brothers and sisters who are still staying away, we need to observe them so that we can create an environment where everyone feels safe enough to come to Mass. For

*Continued on page 2*

## HAVE YOU LOST THE ARK? Continued from page 1

those who are still staying away, that means prayerfully and honestly examining the current facts about Covid, about the safety measures in place, and about your own health situation. Out of love for our brothers and sisters who have returned to Mass, who long to continue the saving work of Christ in our area as a whole parish again, not half a parish, we need to put fear aside and come back to Mass when we are honestly and truly able.

Like the Virgin Mary, we are Arks of the Covenant, sacred to God and called to serve his purpose alone, no matter what. His purpose is that all people be one with him, body and soul, forever in heaven. To accomplish that purpose we need to make him present here on earth, and to do that, we need to celebrate the Eucharist. May we work together, united with the sacrifice we celebrate, to make that possible for all, and by doing so lift our world out of the long night of Covid-19 into the new day of God's glory.



## GOD-GIVEN IMMUNITY By: Kathryn Wilcox

There is a lot of discussion these days about how important it is to stay healthy and keep our immune systems strong. We have had advice on the right food choices, exercise and vitamins. The only thing that we have not been informed about is about how God, who created us, has it covered.

I just read an interesting article by Carl R Peterson, MD. He explained that there are actually 4 areas in our brains that are involved. It all starts with the hypothalamus which regulates four major systems of the body: the pituitary and all target endocrine glands; the total immune system; The entire autonomic system and; The hormone production area, which generates endorphins and enkephalons, which are chemicals the body produces and are 100-200 times more powerful than morphine.

Now it gets really interesting. All of these areas of the brain make up a significant percentage of our whole central nervous system and become activated by EXTENDED VERBAL AND MUSICAL PRAYER (specifically praying and singing in tongues) over a period of time, which triggers the release of brain hormones that boost the body's immune system. The immune system is also enhanced by joyful laughter.

God's word tells us that THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH." Nehemiah 8:10 NRSVCE

So he is telling us that we were made to be happy, to sing, and laugh and to praise Him in prayer and song. The more we engage in these activities that stimulate our brains, the stronger and healthier we will be.

Probably one of the best-known stories on the benefits of laughter comes from the book "Anatomy Of An Illness," the autobiography of Norman Cousins. He claims to have laughed his way back to health. In 1964, Cousins was diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis, a condition in which the connective tissue in his spine deteriorates. When Doctors could not help him, and told him he was dying, he checked himself out and went to a hotel where he got a movie projector and a stack of films, including the Three Stooges, Candid Camera and others which would make him laugh. He had done some reading and discovered that negative emotions were harmful to the body. So even though Norman did not know the medical and spiritual reasons that laughter would make him feel better, he decided to give it a try. He recovered in a few weeks and was able to go back to work and lived a long life.

We are so blessed in the charismatic community that we have received the gifts of praying and singing in tongues, holy laughter, and active praise and worship. We all enjoy praise and worship but now we know that praise and worship are another one of God's miracles that He uses this to strengthen our body's immune system and our spiritual lives by filling us with His Holy Spirit. Remember, the doctor said **EXTENDED** prayer, so the more we pray in tongues and sing and praise the stronger we will be!

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Acts 15:32 NRSVCE  
Just as true today as 2000 years ago, God is in charge. Amen.

*Worthy of it All!*

Adoration with live  
worship and  
Eucharistic Procession



# ADORATION WORSHIP CONCERT

**Worship by Harmony's House with violinist, Louis  
Nicolia and organist, Corey Spacht**

Presiders: Fr. Joe Petrone and Fr Johnathan Schmolt

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**

**7 PM - 9 PM**

**ST GEORGE CHURCH, ERIE**

SPONSORED BY  
WORD OF LIFE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CENTER





# Jeannie

July 15, 1962 - June 15, 2021

## ***Tribute Worship Concert*** ***Saturday, September 25th, 7pm***



FAITH CAFE

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church  
3520 Perry Street, Erie, PA

---

**The Collective - Bread Crumbs -  
Harmony's House**  
**Including Video Performance Of Straight Ahead**  
*Please join us in gratitude to our Lord for the gift of  
Jeannie Mleczo.*

Zoom link: [\*\*https://bit.ly/3xVJ3e4\*\*](https://bit.ly/3xVJ3e4)

## 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)*

### MIRACLES AT THE HEALING MASSES

Often we invite others to the Healing Mass and they hesitate. Why? We all have things we need healing for, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. So why hesitancy? Many of us are private and not able to verbally voice our needs. I have a friend who came a few years ago and asked for healing for a physical problem. Fr Johnathan prayed. We all went home. She contacted me several days later with an amazing story. She went home that evening and during the night, dreamt about her father, who had been deceased for many years. He came to her and asked her to forgive him for the abuse she experienced from him as a child. My friend forgave him and woke feeling 1000 lbs lighter. "I am free!" She told me. So ..... She never voiced her inner healing need, but Our Lord knew!!!! Fr Johnathan prayed, and the Holy Spirit came, and she was healed!!!

Do not be afraid, come to a healing Mass. The Holy Spirit always comes and He knows what you need. Amen—  
Kathryn Wilcox

Another testimony of healing came from Paul Gostomski. He attended the recent Healing Mass at Holy Rosary in August.

Paul arrived at the Healing Mass using a cane, feeling very weak and off balance. Paul has been struggling with health issues since having Covid early this year. Praise be to God, it was a mild case and he did not have to go into the hospital, yet he has suffered with bouts of weakness and shortness of breath. This is a dramatic change for all of those who know Paul, who seemed to have endless energy, even in his 80s. He reads at Mass. Until recently he tended all the outside flower beds at his church. He grows his garden, cooks dinner, and always makes two homemade pies to bring to the Padre Pio God Scouts Prayer Group.. Paul dances in the isle at prayer group! Paul loves Jesus. It was a shock to see him using a cane and sitting at the Mass, instead of his usual energetic helpfulness.

Paul went up for prayer and one of the priests laid hands on Paul for healing. Paul felt the power of God touch him. AND... PAUL WALKED OUT OF THAT CHURCH WITHOUT HIS CANE, FEELING GREAT AND FULL OF ENERGY! PRAISE GOD!

The next Healing Mass is October 5th at 6:15 at Holy Rosary.  
Come with faith that God STILL DOES MIRACLES!

### DIARY OF AN EXORCIST—DAY #145 DEMONS OF FATIGUE—*Msgr. Stephen Rossetti*

When we began the session, I was feeling fine. However, halfway through the exorcism, I felt as if all of my strength was gone. I could barely move or speak. I had to force myself to say the prayers. Then the possessed person likewise said, "I am feeling very, very tired." "This is strange," I thought, "What is happening?"

Then it occurred to me....it's demonic. So, I commanded the "demons of fatigue" to depart. I said it again and again, "Demons of fatigue, in the Holy Name of Jesus I command you to leave." Eventually, the fatigue lifted and we both returned to the task at hand.

This is yet another demonic trick. They try all sorts of things to stop an exorcism. This particular ruse is subtle. You would never think of demons being able to make you feel so tired you cannot move.

Not long ago, a layman complained to me that whenever he tries to work at his ministry, he is overwhelmed with an uncharacteristic tiredness. It saps his energy and he can barely function. Very diagnostic is the fact that the tiredness only comes over this energetic person when he begins his ministry. I suspected a demonic cause and told him so. I suggested he use holy water liberally over himself and his workplace, and also begin his ministry with daily deliverance prayers.

Most bouts of exhaustion have physiological and/or psychological roots, but sometimes they have a demonic origin. I am most suspicious when it occurs in the midst of an exorcism or when it occurs unexpectedly as a person begins a holy task. When demons desperately don't want something to happen, this is one of their subtle tricks.



# GREATER IS HE!

Annual 'Greater Things' Conference



**Date & Time: Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 9am to 3:30pm**

Location:

Our Lady Of Peace Parish, 2401 West 38th Street, Erie PA

**Sponsored by:**

**Word of Life Center Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center**

Registration online here : <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/4013914>

**Call TA Walkiewicz at 814-833-9717 to register by phone**

**Early Registration Fee \$20 prior to October 16th (Lunch Provided)  
\$25.00 Regular Registration fee from October 16-20 (Lunch Provided)  
\$15.00 walk-in fee for registration the morning of the event (Lunch not included)**

**By mail: Send contact information and enclosed event fee  
(check payable to Word of Life CCRC) to: Word of Life  
Charismatic Renewal Center  
St. Mark Catholic Center  
429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514**



*Speaker:*

**John Beaulieu**

Come and discover the powerful reality of knowing the effect of truly understanding that "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (1 JN 4:4). Comprehension of the deep deep love of God for us through Jesus leads the way to restoration, healing, confidence in Christ, and boldness. "Perfect love casts out"... things that bind you!

**Worship Music by Harmony's House and violinist, Louis Nicolia**

## Speaker Bio:

John Beaulieu has been sharing the love of Christ and witnessing about the power and person of the Holy Spirit with youth and adults for the past thirty-six years. He spent over 17 years working parishes in Texas, Colorado, North Carolina, and Ohio developing thriving youth programs. In 2003, John returned to his Alma Mater of Franciscan University of Steubenville to serve as the Director of Youth Outreach in the Christian Outreach. Currently, John is the Director of Evangelization and Formation in the Office of Outreach and Evangelization and has served as Adjunct Professor, teaching Youth Ministry in the Catechetics Department. John speaks to thousands of teens and adults each year at parish, diocesan, and national retreats, missions, and conferences through his ministry, Romans 5:5.

# 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

## *Worthy Of It All!*

### ADORATION WORSHIP CONCERT

St George Church, Erie, PA

Thursday September 16, 2021

7:00—9:00pm

See Newsletter Flier

## *Tribute Worship Concert in honor of Jeannie Mleczo*

### Faith Cafe

Emanuel Presbyterian Church

3520 Perry Street, Erie, PA

Saturday September 25, 2021

See Newsletter Flier

## *Spirit Filled - Healing Mass*

Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church

2701 East Ave, Erie

Tuesday's Worship 6:15 Mass 6:30

October 5th, 2021

## *"GREATER IS HE!"*

## *Greater Things Annual Conference*

Our Lady of Peace Parish

Saturday, October 23, 2021

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM



Steubenville Professor and National Speaker  
John Beaulieu

See Newsletter Flyer For Details

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

Give



# Word Of Life

Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal Center

**DIOCESE OF ERIE**  
429 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16514



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S Postage  
PAID  
Erie, PA  
Permit No. 285

## Reflections on 'The Greater Things' September 2021

*Worthy Of It All!*  
**Adoration Worship Concert**  
**Worship by Harmony's House with violinist, Louis**  
**Nicolia and organist, Corey Spacht**  
Presiders: Fr. Joe Petrone and Fr Johnathan Schmolt

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**  
**7 PM - 9 PM**  
**ST GEORGE CHURCH, ERIE**

### Reflections is published monthly by:

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

Phone: (814) 824-1286  
Fax: (814) 824-1285  
e-mail: [office@wordoflifecrc.org](mailto:office@wordoflifecrc.org)  
website: [www.eriecd.org/wordoflife](http://www.eriecd.org/wordoflife)  
[www.facebook.com/wolcerc](http://www.facebook.com/wolcerc)

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

Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD

### EDITORS

Loretta Laufer, Amy Mosbacher

### FORMATTING

Loretta Laufer

Volume XXXV

Issue No. 08