



# Reflections

## Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

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### April 2014

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“Go into the world and tell the Good News to all creation.” Mark 16:15

#### **The meaning of the Last Supper** By Stephen Binz in *Living with Christ*

The goal of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem is the accomplishment of “his exodus” on the cross, and there cannot be a new Exodus without a new Passover. So Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover, which consists of the sacrifice of a lamb in the temple and the eating of a sacrificial meal. This memorial feast, celebrated by the people of Israel since the night before their exodus from Egypt, consisted of the lamb, unleavened bread and wine, and other symbolic foods representing various aspects of Israel’s Exodus.

But Jesus celebrates this ancient ritual and transforms it into the sacrificial meal of the new covenant. Jesus explains that he has desired to eat the Passover with his disciples before his death, but that he will not share the meal with them again “until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God” (Luke 22:15-18).

It is particularly appropriate that Jesus should share with his disciples this Passover meal before he accomplishes his own exodus to the Father by way of his sacrificial death. His reference to fulfillment in God’s kingdom looks toward the future, to the eternal banquet, when the full effects of Jesus’ sacrifice are completed. This meal

of the new covenant looks beyond the first deliverance of God’s people from Egypt to the final deliverance from everything that holds the human race in bondage.

In anticipation of his sacrificial death on the cross, Jesus takes bread, gives thanks, breaks it, and



gives it to his disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you.”

He did the same with the cup of wine, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood” (Luke 22:19-20). His body given for us in death and his blood shed for our sake are the new sacrificial banquet, the Eucharistic sacrifice, by which his disciples continue to join themselves to his sacrifice and experience his redemption.

His mission “to proclaim release to captives” and “to let the oppressed go free,” announced in the synagogue of Nazareth (Luke 4:18) is accomplished on the cross, made present in every Eucharist, and completed when the kingdom of God is established in its fullness at his coming glory.

In the first Exodus, God entered into a covenant with his newly

liberated people on Mount Sinai, establishing an intimate bond with them. This covenant, like all covenants, was consummated with the blood of sacrifice. In the new Exodus, God establishes a new covenant with his people through the sacrifice of Jesus and the shedding of his blood. And in the new Passover, Jesus gives his Church the means to remember and renew this covenant as it celebrates the Eucharist until he comes again.

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#### **A prayer for Maundy Thursday**

O God, we remember that Christ gave us an order and an example for this special night. “This is my body,” he said as he took the bread. “This is my blood,” he said as he took the cup. “Do this in remembrance of me.” So we come together to remember our Lord and to have fellowship with him. May this be a meaningful and glorious time for us all as we commune together in worship and the pursuit of holiness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Centering in

By Liz Geary

### • Prayer Brunch

Many thanks to those who attended the spring prayer brunch on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The summer prayer brunch is scheduled for Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Joe's/Bread of Life community center. Susan Yurkewicz will be speaking on her recently published book, Triumph, and giving personal testimony. Look for more information and a registration form in the May and June editions of *Reflections*. I look forward to hearing Susan speak and seeing everyone in June.

### • Women's Retreat & Charismatic Conference

I appreciate those who have contacted the Center regarding the annual women's retreat. Unfortunately, there is not a spring women's retreat scheduled at this time due to the inability to book adequate overnight space. We hope to have our usual retreat for the spring of 2015. Please pray that a suitable facility is found to hold the retreat.

There is also not a Charismatic Conference scheduled for 2014 due to the many structural changes that the Word of Life Renewal Center has had in a few short months. We are beginning work on the 2015 Catholic Charismatic Conference. We will also be in need of a place to hold this event.

We are working on coordinating a Day of Renewal, scheduled for Saturday, September 6, 2014 at St. Joe's/Bread of Life community center. Renee Marazon will be the featured speaker for this day-long event and give three talks over the course of the day. More details

will follow in the June, July/August and September editions of *Reflections*. This day will be for both men and women. If you are interested in working on the team for this event, please contact the Center. I would like to thank T.A. Walkiewicz for being the lead coordinator for this special day.

### • Life in the Spirit

A very successful life in the spirit seminar was held at the Cambridge Springs Women's Correctional Facility on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks go out to the special team of volunteers who were leaders that day. Please pray for the follow-up day scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>. God is working powerfully through the prison ministries.

### • Office information

The Word of Life office will be closed on Holy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The office will also be closed the week after Easter, Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> through Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> as I will be on vacation and celebrating Easter. You are welcome to leave voicemail messages and/or emails at the office, but please be aware that they will not be returned until I return to the office on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your patience and prayers as I enjoy some much needed time off with my family.

### • Office assistants

Many thanks to T.A. Walkiewicz, Mary Beth Whitman, and Dan Arndt. They have been hands and feet to me in volunteering to help out with various office tasks. I am so blessed by your efforts as the new volunteer "office assistants."

### • Prayer group leaders

To our prayer group leaders whose faithfulness has provided a

nurturing home for all called by God to a deeper life in the Holy Spirit, thank you. You are the keepers of the kingdom. Let all of us together pray for these mothers and fathers of the Renewal who have fostered us and continue to foster us in the family of God. Bless them, Lord, now and forever. Amen.

### • Happy Easter

Praise be to the Lord for His gift of death and resurrection for our eternal salvation! I would like to wish everyone a very happy and blessed Easter. May you always know the joy of living a life in union with Christ Jesus!

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### Know a good clean joke?

Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947), a brilliant philosopher and mathematician, once said, "I have always noticed that deeply and truly religious persons are fond of a joke, and I am suspicious of those who aren't."

•Did you hear about the Christian woman who was reluctant to exercise? She said, "If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees."

•When preacher Henry Ward Beecher was a pastor in New York City, he received a letter with two words on it: "April Fool." So Beecher wrote a letter to a New York newspaper describing the letter he had received and then



commented, "I have heard of men who wrote letters and forgot to sign their name, but never before met a case in which a man signed his name and forgot to write the letter"

## Is it prayer?

By Amy Mosbacher

As I knelt inside the brightly lit church, still decorated for Christmas with additional glowing candles on the altar, I saw the deacon come and leave the tabernacle door slightly ajar for Mass. I saw the darkness within and the faint shadow of the ciborium. The space inside the tabernacle seemed very empty and quiet in contrast to the rest of the church. Then understanding filled me: the darkness, too, is prayer.

If we've done any spiritual reading, then it's hard not to come across a plethora of definitions of prayer. There are as many methods of prayer as there are people; some work for a certain temperament and others don't. Because we are all unique, God relates to us differently. We can use whatever works to train ourselves to constant prayer (Eph. 6:18); this training is basically our effort and our going out to meet God. But when God takes over and He comes to meet us, then there are some similarities in prayer. Read any of the saints, and we'll find they all persisted through the distractions of prayer: minds flitting here and there amidst the noisiness of life. Some saints advocate imagining yourself in a Biblical scene or a rosary meditation. Whatever they chose, they had one thing in common: these people wanted God. Their prayer was simply the constant desire for Him. The similarity of God's meeting us in prayer is contemplation. (Don't get me wrong, we can't work ourselves into that state; it is God's free gift at any time.)

Some Saints who've written about it say that this contemplation is being caught up in His Light without doing anything on their part; their soul gazes on His beauty. For some the images or emotions are so intense they're felt physically. But not all contemplation is like that. Sometimes it's only a waiting, a dryness crying out -- here I am, where are You? Beyond that there is still the nothingness of God. This is described as being quiet in the heart and focused in thought, when our minds don't flutter away from Him. This undisturbed awareness has no images, no understandings, just the dark emptiness of (the absence of?) His presence. Majesty fills such a place, and a soul can be overwhelmed at its own nothingness, yet it's content with that because it knows God exists. Just like the darkness inside the tabernacle, God is still there, just unfelt. But is it prayer? Yes -- by all means, yes.

The life lived for God is filled with trials of all kinds since that's what Jesus chose. Not everyone can experience a comfortable life or spiritual delights, but everyone can experience poverty. Jesus chose to be poor, and when we embrace His life in ours we'll start to resemble Him and experience what He did. The cold air we breathe in is our calling here on earth: the love we must have for all people. It's the pouring out of ourselves, holding on to the hope of what's waiting for us in heaven.

Don't be afraid of the darkness. Just pray, pray, pray.

## Son of God Prayer Group events

The Word of Life Center encourages you to attend the following events being held at Holy Rosary Church. These events were well attended last year. The Center is cooperating with the Son of God Prayer Group to help make both the Healing Mass and the Holy Spirit seminar successful. This prayer group is affiliated with St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary churches and is a supporter of the Center's activities.

### **May 6<sup>th</sup> – Healing Mass with Fr. David Poulson presiding**

The Mass will be held on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Holy Rosary Church at 6:30 PM. Music will be provided by the St. Joseph/Bread of Life music ministry.

### **May 13<sup>th</sup> – Seminar: “Draw Near to God and God Will Draw Near to You.”**

This Scripture-based seminar, inspired by James 4:8, will run for five consecutive Tuesdays at Holy Rosary (in the church). Each session will begin at 6:30 PM, except for the first session which will have registration at 6:00 PM. The seminar provides an opportunity for participants to explore and enter into a fuller life of the Holy Spirit.

For more information, call Patty at 823-3968 or Gerry at 452-2499. You can also register by contacting the Word of Life Center at 824-1286.

### Healing Mass

#### Our Lady of Peace

2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. 7:30PM  
Wednesday April 2, 2014

### Contemporary Mass

#### St. Joseph Church

#### Bread of Life Community

11:00AM every Sunday  
Children's Liturgy of the Word

### Perpetual Adoration

#### Bread of Life Chapel

#### St. Joseph Community Center

### Chaplet of Mercy

Every day at 3:00pm in Bread of Life  
Chapel

### St. Joseph Novena

#### St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life

#### Community

Every Wednesday 7:00PM

## Memorials

### **In memory of**

Joseph Kostek  
Dengtory Helsley

Barbara King  
George Kaufman  
Mary Karcic

### **Requested by**

Carol Mando  
Carol Mando  
T.A. Walkiewicz  
Ed & Agnes Helsley  
Sr. Mary Thomas  
Sr. Mary Thomas  
T.A. Walkiewicz  
Jack & Jean Heintzel

Contributions have been made for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
Prayers will be offered for the comfort and support of the families.

**It is far better to forgive and forget  
than to resent and remember.**

**– Unknown**

**All Scripture quotes in this newsletter are from the New International Version unless noted otherwise**



## PRAYER GROUPS

### † Sunday

#### **Shalom in Jesus Prayer Group**

In home 6:30PM  
Rick Kenawell (814) 375-0328  
DuBois, PA  
April 6,13,27

#### **Acts II Community**

St. Julia Church 6:30PM  
West 8<sup>th</sup> & Powell Ave.  
Jack Heintzel 838-1325  
April 6,13,27

### † Monday:

#### **Disciples of the Holy Spirit**

St. Mary's Church Annex 6:00PM  
139 Church St., St. Marys, PA  
Mary Ellen Frank (814) 781-3904  
April 7,14,21,28

#### **Leopold Center**

1017 West 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary  
At 3:00PM (before Mass)  
April 7,14,21,28  
(Except major holidays)

### **River of Life PG**

2nd & 4th Monday evenings  
7:00PM  
St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA  
Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104  
April 14,28

### † Tuesday:

#### **Son of God Prayer Group**

Holy Rosary Church  
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM  
Pat Montefiori 823-3968  
April 1,8,15,22,29

#### **Chosen Prayer Group**

St. Theresa Church,  
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon  
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519  
April 1,8,15,22,29

### † Wednesday:

#### **St. Mark's Prayer Group**

St. Mark Church 7:00PM  
Religious Education Center  
Emporium, PA  
April 2,9,16,23,30

### † Thursday:

**St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life  
Prayer Meeting** 7:00PM  
139 W. 24<sup>th</sup> St. – Upstairs in Center  
Regi Connelly (814) 866-0505  
April 3,10,17,24 (Call first)

#### **St. Boniface PG**

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM  
John Griebel 825-3588  
April 3,10,24

#### **Wildfire Prayer Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month 7:00 PM  
5031 W. Ridge Rd.  
S.S.J. Living Center  
Sr. Gerry Olson 836-4165  
April 10

### † Friday:

#### **Light of the World Community**

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for  
Location 7:30PM  
Bob Zimmer 868-5344  
April 4,11,25

## National Day of Prayer

By Agnes Helsley

May 1, 2014 is the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the National Day of Prayer for our beloved United States of America. Probably all of you will agree that our nation is in great need of God's intervention on our behalf.

Shirley Dobson is the Chairman for the National Day of Prayer task force, and she believes that we have an unprecedented opportunity for God's healing and renewing power to be revealed. Our guiding scripture is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Mrs. Dobson states that the theme for this year is "*One Voice, United in Prayer*." The goal is "emphasizing unity in His body, and the need for His people, corporately and individually, to join together and place their faith and prayers in the unfailing character of their Creator, who is sovereign over all governments, authorities, and men. To further highlight our theme, we've chosen Romans 15:6 as our Scripture for this year: 'So that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.'"

It is worth quoting Anne Graham Lotz, the 2014 Honorary Chairman of the NDP Task Force, to give further impetus to this very significant day: "God has promised in 2 Chronicles 7 that if we — a people identified with Him — would humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our

wicked ways, then He would hear our prayer, forgive our sin and heal our land. This year, on the National Day of Prayer, let us choose to stop pointing our finger at the sins of others, and examine our own hearts and lives. Let us choose to acknowledge our own sin — our neglect, defiance, ignorance and even rejection of Him. Let us choose, in anticipation of this day, to repent and rely on the fact that HE IS!! In our weakness, He is our Strength. In our grief, He is our Comfort. In our despair, He is our Hope. In our confusion, He is our Wisdom. In time of terrorism, He is our Shield. In time of war, He is our Peace. In times of uncertainty, He is the Rock on which we stand!"

Let us all be prepared to celebrate the promises of our faithful Father as we approach this day by being faithful in our times of prayer daily — remembering the charge given us in Scripture: "Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is GOD'S WILL for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 5:17-18).



May 1, 2014

## The breathing of the soul

Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do in life. The Lord's Prayer was so special in the early church that only the confirmed members could pray it. They figured that spectators and inquirers weren't ready for the power and mystery of the prayer. It was called the "believer's prayer." Even today in the liturgy of the Greek and Russian Orthodox Church, the praying of the Lord's Prayer is a moment of awe and mystery as a priest says at the introduction: "And make us worthy, O Lord, that we joyously and without presumption may make bold to invoke thee, the heavenly God, as Father and to say, 'Our Father,...'"

Jesus does not want us to *say* the Lord's Prayer. Jesus wants us to *become* the Lord's prayer. REAL praying is God moving in us through the Spirit. Real praying is the Spirit of God praying in and through us, making us into the likeness of Christ. In the words of Francois Fenelon: "Lord, teach me to pray. Pray thyself in me." Prayer is the breathing of the soul.

—Homiletics

## Resurrection

A letter came from Health and Human Services to a resident of Greenville County, South Carolina: "Your food stamps will be stopped, effective March 1992, because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if your circumstances change."

—S. Bowen Matthews

Quoted in *Leadership*, Summer 1997

## Propelled by *Lumen Fidei*

By Kathy Wilcox

"I have come into the world as a light ..." Jn. 12:46.

The new encyclical letter, *Lumen Fidei* (*The Light of Faith*), caps the progression of an organized theme of teaching from our popes over 15 years. This theme was developed through three popes and demonstrates the profound work of the Holy Spirit speaking to the Church. At the beginning of the third millennium, John Paul II gave us an apostolic letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (*New Evangelization*). In it he stated that God had poured out a "river of living water" from the Holy Spirit on the Church today, and gave us this mandate: "... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Mt 28:19).

Benedict XVI began his pontificate with *Deus Caritas Est* (*God is Love*) which he wrote from John Paul II's notes. He then gave us *Spe Salvi* (*Saved by Hope*) in 2007 and *Caritas in Veritate* (*Charity in Truth*) in 2009. These all lead up to *Porto Fidei* (*The Door of Faith*) in Oct. 2011, which opened the Year of Faith – Oct. 2012 to Nov. 2013. The rough draft of *Lumen Fidei* was written by Benedict XVI. It was amended by Francis, who signed it in July of 2013, in time for the closing of the Year of Faith. Through these letters, we have been given the tools and encouragement needed to share our faith. Then Benedict stepped aside for Francis, whose role is to lead us out into the world to make disciples of all nations.

This last document, the *Light of Faith*, explains that faith has been clouded and that it is difficult to bring Jesus to others through all the darkness. The letter states that those who believe, see; they see with a light that illumines their entire journey, for it comes from the risen Christ, the Morning Star which never sets.

*Lumen Fidei* is divided into four chapters plus an introduction. The letter explains the clouding of the message and the person of Christ by today's age of reason and idolatry (worship of things we have made with our own hands). We are also reminded that faith is a gift and is not to be taken for granted. The rest of the letter goes on to define faith as listening to the Word of God, receiving the message and God's call, and coming out of ourselves to bring Christ to others. It is through our faith that we gain understanding; once we believe; we can "see." Faith is linked to God's truth and love which propel us forward in God's plan of salvation. Our encounter with Christ calls us to evangelize; see 1 Cor. 15:3, where Paul says "For what I received I passed on to you." All of this helps us to see the place of faith in society and tells us how we are to integrate faith into our daily lives and the lives of others.

The Charismatic gifts we have received allow us, in the Holy Spirit, to bring the love of Christ to others. We who have been baptized through water and the Spirit should be radiating the love of Christ, bringing His love to everyone we meet. It is love which

will draw others to the truth, and when they receive Christ's love through the baptism of the Holy Spirit they will believe, understand and give to others what they have received! Let's listen carefully to what our recent popes have taught us. Let's walk in faith and love, sharing with others the wonderful truths of the Gospel.

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### I believe...

I believe in the God of fruit time and harvest who makes the land to bear gifts in its time and fills our tables with the bounty of his hand;

I believe in Jesus Christ his Son, who was the first fruit of those that slept, and brings us to spiritual tables where our cups are always full;

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who causes us to remember all for which we are grateful and teaches us to see a relationship between our gifts and the giver;

I believe in the world as the arena of my spiritual life, where I am to share hospitality with the stranger; for in so doing I shall fulfill the desires of Him who has given me everything, and of his Son and the Holy Spirit.

—John Killinger in  
*Lost in Wonder, Love & Praise*

## Whose slave are you?

By Jack Heintzel

*"Don't you realize that you can choose your own master?" Rom. 6:16 (LB)*

In the sixth chapter of Romans, Paul sets forth a powerful principle. We might call it the principle of master and slave, and it affects every person God has created or will create. For every person is a slave of sin or a slave of God. It cannot be any other way. We are either sold out to Jesus Christ or we are a slave of Satan. Romans 6:16 (NRSV) says this: "Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?" So *everyone* is a slave of either sin (Satan) or of obedience (to God). We have to make a choice.

For those of us who have come into a relationship with God, we need to understand what Paul is saying so that we can live a fruitful life in Christ. We have to make a choice: will we serve Christ wholeheartedly, or will we walk the line between the two enemy camps? Will our hearts be undivided (united) in full surrender to Jesus, or will our commitment to Him be half-hearted? We cannot have a divided heart (Ezekiel 11:19).

We should ask ourselves another question: who uses us as a weapon, God or Satan? Romans 6:13 says that we should not let any part of our bodies become tools of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Let's not use our tongue for slander, or our hands for

stealing, or our mind for corrupting others. But instead, we should give ourselves completely to God. We want to stop sinning and be tools of righteousness -- weapons of holiness in God's hands.

The idea of being called a slave may bother us. We prefer to be called a servant, because this connotes the idea of having some independence. For example, if we were hired today to be a servant in someone's home, we would have a contract that gives us rules as to when we would work; the rest of the time we would be free to do what we want. But this is not the scriptural meaning of servant in the kingdom of God. Even though we *are* servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we really have the position of slave. There is no question that St. Paul considered himself a slave of Christ, fully sold out to Him (1 Cor. 9:19). We must realize that Jesus *owns* us; He paid a great price for us -- His own precious blood shed on the cross. We are not our own; we belong to God. There is no license for us to just do whatever we want. Jesus Christ is our Master and King. He is Lord; we are not.

Please take the time to study Romans 6. It is very important for us to understand what Paul is saying here. We need to count the cost of discipleship. We must reject the notion of free or cheap grace. We need to choose this day whom we will serve (Joshua 24:15). Let us not "walk the line." We should decide whose slave we will be, and go all the way with Jesus Christ.

## Sometimes a loud shout is needed

Let's face it, sometimes we start a day with a black mood. Perhaps we did not sleep well. Or we have some problems nagging at us. Or we just don't feel well. And such a mood might even invade our spirit on a special day, like Easter Sunday perhaps. Kjerstin Easton, confesses that was her dilemma one Easter morning.

She was slated to sing a solo. It was called "Morning Has Broken" but she felt more like she was still in the middle of the night. Nothing stirred within her. She even had a few words for God.

"C'mon God. You're all-powerful. Why don't you just do something!" Then her pastor cried out loudly, "Easter! Easter! Easter!" The nearby canyon seemed to echo the pastor's yell. It was enough to dissipate the black mood. Joy followed. A few minutes later, a smile tugged at the corners of Kjerstin's mouth as she sang: "Morning has broken like the first morning...."

—Adapted from *Daily Guideposts*



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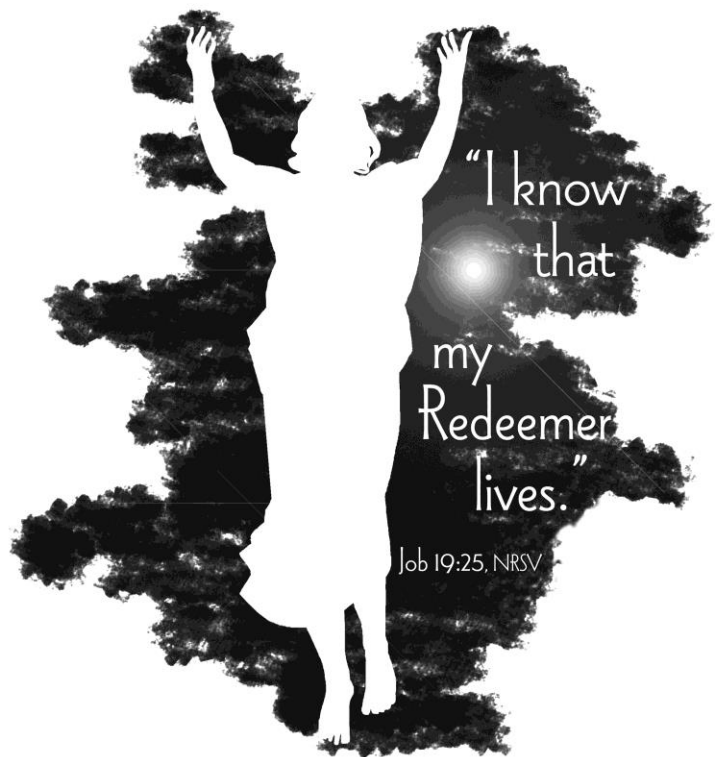
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The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide teaching, news and calendar of events, which help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Diocese of Erie.

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