



# Reflections

Word of Life  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

April 2016

## The Power of the Word of God

By Agnes Helsley

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God---this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Rm 12:1-3)

God’s Word is living and active -- Heb. 4:12 tells us how active it truly is -- how many changed lives have we witnessed resulting from the study of His Word (including our own)! It was eye-opening to work on Life in the Spirit Seminars at the Albion prison. Hard hearts could be seen to soften as the Word became internalized, forgiveness could be accepted and shared.

I recently read the story of Telemachus, a cloistered monk who was instrumental in ending the senseless slaughter of gladiators in the Roman Coliseum. Just as a form of entertainment “duel to the

death” was the choice sport enjoyed by Roman spectators.

Telemachus was led by the Spirit of God to go to Rome. He did not understand why but he went, obedient to the call of his Lord. Upon arrival in Rome he witnessed great excitement. His inquiry as to the cause was met with the news of the gladiators battling that day in the Coliseum. As he entered the arena he heard the traditional address to Caesar made by the gladiators, “Hail, Caesar, we who are about to die salute you.” All of a sudden Telemachus realized why he had been called to Rome.

Telemachus somehow managed to make his way to the center of the arena. He stood between two gladiators and said, “In the name of Christ, forbear!” The crowd began to chant “Run him through!” A blow from one gladiator sent him sprawling. He got up and repeated, “In the name of Christ, forbear!” The crowd continued, “Run him through!” A second gladiator caught the little monk in the abdomen with his sword. As

his blood reddened the ground he once again begged, “In the name of Christ, forbear!”

A pall fell over the Coliseum as Telemachus lay dying and then it happened. A man in the upper row of seats stood up and silently left the event. Soon throughout the arena the spectators left one by one. It was a moment of conviction; that was the last known gladiatorial contest in the Coliseum. This story is recorded in *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*. A brave little monk, led by the Spirit of God and transformed by his faith in the Word of God, effectually ended a barbaric waste of human lives.

“The Bible is not some form of superior religious literature. It is the living Word of the living God -- sharper than any two-edged sword. And even this world, sacked by sin, stands in awe of a life transformed by it.” Thus wisely noted by Frank Wright, PhD.

## Centering In

### Important Dates

Here are dates for some events that people affiliated with the Word of Life Center (and others) might be interested in during the next few months. All are sponsored by the Center. Please pray for God's blessings on them.

#### • **General Events**

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Healing Mass at Holy Rosary Church (see page 5 for details)

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday. Praise Fest at St. Joseph/BOL Community Center (see page 3 for details)

#### • **Conferences**

June 11<sup>th</sup> - Women's Day of Recollection at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center (see pages 6 & 7 for details)

#### • **Board Meetings**

April 20<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark Center at 1:30 PM

July 20<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark Center at 1:30 PM

#### • **Prison Life in the Spirit**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Cambridge

Springs women's prison

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Albion men's prison

### National Conference

The National Leaders' and Ministries Conference will be held November 4-6, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. All are invited to attend. You will be joining with people from around the globe for praise and worship, talks, and fellowship. Keynote

speakers will be Jim Murphy, Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz, and Dave VanVickle. For more details regarding the conference please visit [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org) or call 800-338-2445.

### The New Evangelization

On page 7 of this issue is the flyer Stacy Malesiewski provided for the Women's Day of Recollection. It states that she is very passionate about the New Evangelization. This excerpt from an article called "Education and Evangelization" from Columbia Magazine in February 2014 was written by Stratford Caldecott:

-----

The call for a new evangelization – what Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI called the "urgent need to proclaim the Gospel afresh in a highly secularized environment"—has huge implications for Catholics in education, at home and at school. Both are *places of evangelization*.

According to the Congregation for Catholic Education, "The mission of the Church is to evangelize, for the interior transformation and the renewal of humanity. For young people, the school is one of the ways for this evangelization to take place." The home is the first and most important school we attend, and our parents remain our primary educators, no matter where we go later.

The Catholic understanding of evangelization places a priority on personal conversion and "interior transformation." In this sense, it is radically dis-

tinct from *proselytism*, which aims at exterior measures and effects, such as putting people in pews and money in the collection basket. This is something we need to get right, as Pope Francis keeps insisting. If we do, fewer of our children will lapse in their faith as they grow older, and more will find themselves able reach out and speak about their Catholic faith with confidence to the world around them.

The Gospels show us that the disciples were called to Christ not by abstract speeches, but by an encounter either with Christ himself or, after Pentecost, with men and women who were on fire with the Holy Spirit. The Apostles taught doctrine, of course, but it was the firm foundation of a living faith that carried the words into the hearts of their listeners, showing that they, too, could be transformed. What every Christian convert eventually comes to realize is that he or she is being offered not just a list of rules or a set of doctrines, but also the secret of true happiness.

If a person does not feel *drawn* toward Christ and does not appreciate the *need* of salvation, he or she can hardly be expected to listen to the Church's teaching with real attention. We have to find ways of presenting that call of Christ and nurturing interest into a desire to follow him.

Sometimes the best we can accomplish by our attempts at "pre-evangelization" is to arouse someone's curiosity. That is at least better than indifference.

## Drawing Nearer To God

By Jack Heintzel

*"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." Psalm 42:2a*

The second part of Psalm 42:2 has the author asking "when can I go and meet with God?" Verse 1 speaks about panting for God as the deer pants for water. You may have sung a popular prayer meeting song called "*As the Deer*" which can draw us into this mode of thought. The dictionary says "to pant" is to "yearn with frantic exhaustion." In another words, it's almost a desperate desire for something. Obviously the author of this psalm had a great desire for God.

There is a book that has helped me understand more clearly how to draw nearer to God. It's called "*Mary, Mirror of the Church*," by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, formerly the preacher to the Pope's household. His book sketches a path of holiness modeled on the Mother of God.

Certainly Mary was a powerful woman of faith and prayer. Fr. Cantalamessa says we don't know what Mary's prayer was like, but we can sense something of it from the lives of certain saints. Many saints, especially the mystics, have described what happens in a soul when it has gone through the dark night of faith and has been completely transformed in Christ. The soul becomes a flame of love. St. Augustine said the life of such a person becomes "just one holy de-

sire." St. John of the Cross wrote a poem about a "soul consumed with the desire to see God." Each verse ended with the same refrain: "I die because I do not die." An ancient Syrian mystic said that "the soul doesn't yearn for heaven to receive its reward but simply out of pure love for God." It is possible to reach the point where we have great longing and need to be reunited with God and to possess Him totally.

Mary is the prototype of praying souls. Do we know anything about the nature of her prayer? The author quotes Augustine, who explains that the essence of prayer is a desire for God: "Your desire is your prayer: if your desire is continuous, then your prayer is continuous, because the apostle didn't say, in vain: *pray constantly* (1 Thess. 5:17)." How do we pray constantly? Augustine says there is interior prayer that goes on ceaselessly and that is desire. So our ceaseless desire will be our ceaseless prayer. Mary no doubt knew what ceaseless prayer was because her desire for God was ceaseless. She is a powerful model for us.

When I read what these saints have written about their great desire for God and their longing to be with Him, I have to think about my own relationship with God. I need more of a thirst for Him. Perhaps I am too satisfied with my spiritual life as it is. I am praying for that deeper relationship with God. Maybe you are in the same situation. If we want to draw nearer to God, we will

have to surrender more to His will. Let's ask God to help us do that.

### SPECIAL PENTECOST GATHERING

**May 15, 2016**

2:00 – 5:00 PM

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting." (Acts 2:1-2)

All prayer groups, all believers, are invited to attend a "Pentecost Celebration of Jesus" at St. Joseph/BOL Community Center, 147 W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. If any questions, please call Patty Montefiori at 814-823-3968. INVITE! INVITE! INVITE! All are welcome. We are the Body of Christ. Don't miss out. God is calling us together to do a mighty work. In Matthew 9:37, Jesus said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Fr. David Poulson, our Diocesan Liaison and Chair of the Board, will speak a few words. Praise and worship will be led by Jaci Phillips-Sabol and Friends.

Please write this event on your calendar so you don't miss it.

### Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace Church

2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. 7:30 PM

First Wednesday of the month

### Contemporary Mass

St. Joseph Church

Bread of Life Community

11:00 AM every Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word

### Perpetual Adoration

Bread of Life Chapel

St. Joseph Community Center

### Chaplet of Mercy

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

### St. Joseph Novena

St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life

Community

Every Wednesday 7:00 PM

### Memorials

In memory of

Requested by

Winifred Wilcox

T.A. Walkiewicz

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.

**“We have this (blood covenant) union through what Christ *has* done ... we are now in actual union with God, married to Him in our spirits ... thus my life becomes an opportunity for Him to live. This letting Him live in me becomes the essence of Christianity. *Life is not our responsibility, but rather our response to His ability.*”**

*-Malcolm Smith / Blood Brothers in Christ*

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 6:30 PM

Rick Kenawell (814) 375-0328  
DuBois, PA

### **Acts II Community**

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM

West Lake Rd. & Powell Ave.

Jack Heintzel 838-1325

### † Monday:

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

St. Mary's Church Annex 6:00 PM

139 Church St., St. Marys, PA

Mary Ellen Frank (814) 781-3904

### **St. Andrew Chapel**

(formerly Leopold Center group)

1116 West 7th St.

Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

At 3:15 PM (before Mass)

### **River of Life PG**

2nd & 4th Monday evenings

7:00PM

St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA

Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104

### † Tuesday:

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

Holy Rosary Church

2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM

Pat Montefiori 823-3968

### **Chosen Prayer Group**

St. Theresa Church,

Shinglehouse, PA 10 AM – 12 Noon

Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519

### † Wednesday:

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

St. Mark Church 7:00 PM

Religious Education Center

Emporium, PA

### † Thursday:

#### **Wildfire Prayer Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month 4:30 PM

5031 W. Ridge Rd..

S.S.J. Living Center

Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165

### **St. Boniface PG**

7615 Wattsburg Rd.

7:00 PM

John Griebel

825-3588

### † Friday:

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

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for

Location

7:30 PM

T.A. Walkiewicz

833-9717



## **Predestination and Presumption**

By Amy Mosbacher

We are about a third of the way into 2016. How are your New Year's resolutions going? Maybe you said "This year I exercise!" Or "This year I diet!" Or "This year I'll read 87 books," etc. A new beginning gives hope. As Christians, we should make some important spiritual resolutions around Jesus, our ultimate Hope.

I often wonder about people who don't know/believe in God and how they get through life. To not have the hope that Jesus gives in being with Him forever, to believe that this life is all there is, would be unbearable. Therefore I'll pray with renewed effort this year for all those who are far away from God that they, too, will come to know there's more and that Jesus can lighten their load.

Jesus being our hope brings me to a conversation I've been pondering since August. I had a conversation with a young man who had jumped around from denomination to denomination – everything but Catholicism, it seems. One topic of our conversation focused on the salvation God offers to those who believe. We both agreed that "being good" wasn't enough to get to heaven, the hope of salvation had to come through Jesus and our believing in Him. We agreed that Jesus' death and resurrection made that salvation possible for all people, but not everyone

would choose to believe and so not be saved. But here's where things got a bit hedgy. He appeared to be saying that once someone believed in the name of Jesus they were completely saved and assured of heaven. I asked about those who were "backslidden," or fallen away. He seemed convinced that once they'd accepted Jesus, there was no going back. Then I asked about sinful behavior and surely that would separate us from God. He said that the blood of Jesus wiped away all our sins and punishment for them. To me this was teetering on the edge of presumption, just assuming that God would forgive anything we do if we confess it. To be sure, I suggested the example of someone who had done the most fearsome of crimes but admitted they were wrong to God; would that person need to make reparation not only to God but also to society? He replied, yes, they'd have to spend time in jail or whatever consequence society saw fit. But as for reparation to God, there was no need because Jesus' blood took care of that when He took our sin upon His shoulders. We went back and forth on this quite a while. The young man couldn't see the need for penance or any sort of mortification because Jesus had already done it all, and apparently nothing was required of us but "faith alone."

To me that whole viewpoint seemed brazen. If we're just automatically forgiven of our sins and assured of heaven what's to keep us in line

morally and civilly? The idea that there are probably more people out there who hold viewpoints like that young man's is rather scary. We need to pray for ourselves and all people for enlightenment to know and understand God's truth. Perhaps for our next New Year's spiritual resolution we can determine to study our own Catholic faith, so we'll know how to respond to our Protestant brothers and sisters. In my next article I'll try to give the Catholic response to the points made above.

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

Affiliated with  
St. John the Baptist  
and Holy Rosary Churches

Invites you to attend a  
**Healing Mass**  
With Presider  
**Fr. David Poulson**

**At Holy Rosary Church**  
**28<sup>th</sup> & East Avenue**  
**Erie, PA**

**Tuesday, April 26, 2016**

Mass will begin at 6:30 PM

Doors opened at 5:30 PM to  
provide you time to write your  
petitions on a simulated  
brick wall.  
These petitions will be offered  
with the presentation of the  
gifts.

**Registration: Women's Day of Recollection**  
**June 11, 2016**

\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for registration is June 6, 2016**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone for reservations:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Word of Life Center

824-1286

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

T.A. Walkiewicz

833-9717

Make checks payable to Word of Life Center, and send to:  
Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514

---

## **What Can We Learn From Passover?**

By Kathy Wilcox

We celebrate Easter, but Jesus and His apostles celebrated Passover. The story of why the Jewish people celebrate Passover can be found in the book of Exodus. The Jews lived in Egypt for 30 years but then were held as slaves for the next 400 years. Moses was a young Jewish man who had been raised in the Pharaoh's household. He saw a Jewish slave being beaten by an Egyptian and was moved to intervene, killing the Egyptian. Pharaoh ordered Moses killed when he learned of the incident, but Moses had already fled into the wilderness. Moses stayed away for many years, but finally heeded God's call and went back to Egypt to confront the new Pharaoh, challenging him to set the Jewish people free.

Moses followed God's instructions, explaining to the Pharaoh that if he did not comply with the request, plagues would come to the Egyptian land and people. The Pharaoh scoffed, not believing that the God of Moses could do anything to him or his

country. There were 10 plagues in all; the first was executed when Moses took his staff and touched the water of the Nile River. It turned to blood, causing the fish to die and make the water undrinkable. When the Pharaoh was not moved to action, a series of other calamities came upon the land, including frogs, gnats, and flies consecutively swarming over the country. Pharaoh still would not relent, and all the livestock died, and hail, locusts and constant darkness overwhelmed the people. God protected the Jewish people through the plagues, but Pharaoh still stubbornly held his ground, not acknowledging power of the God of the Jewish people.

The time came for the 10<sup>th</sup> and last plague; the first-born children of the land would be slaughtered. The Jewish people were instructed to take the blood of a spring lamb and mark the doorpost of each house with its blood. When the Spirit of the Lord passed through the land, he would "pass over" each house that had the blood of the lamb on the door, thus protecting the Israeli children. Pharaoh relented; he agreed to set the

people free, and they left so quickly that they could not even wait for the bread to rise to take with them.

When the Jewish people celebrate Passover, they are commemorating the night that the of death "passed over" their first-born children, the flight of the people out of Egypt, and the unleavened bread that reminds them how quickly they left Egypt. For the eight days of Passover, no leavened bread is eaten, only unleavened Matzo bread. And the time is also referred to as the Festival of the Unleavened Bread.

We learn that God's people were protected by the Blood of the Lamb, and were fed with unleavened bread. Jesus, the Lamb of God, became our Eucharist, His Body and Blood our protection and sustenance.

---

*(Ed. note: many years ago, we and some church friends celebrated a Christian version of Passover. We did it both in our home and at our Catholic church. It is particularly suitable for children. I still have the material we used, which I would give to anyone who wants to try it. Call Jack at 814-838-1325).*

# VICTORY

*"For whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.  
And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.*

*(1 John 5:4)*

## WOMENS DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Sponsored by the Word of Life Center, Erie PA

**SATURDAY JUNE 11TH 2016 8:30 AM TO 4:30PM**

At the St. Joseph Community Center 147 W 24th St, Erie, PA 16502

**CALL 824-1286 OR 8383-9717 FOR RESERVATIONS**

**\$20/PERSON TEENS AND OLDER** Some Scholarships available.

Please bring your own lunch. Drinks and snacks provided.

**INCLUDES MASS, PRAYER, TALKS, MUSIC, SMALL GROUPS & MORE!**



### **GOD IS CALLING YOU INTO THE DEEP**

Come, discover a secret world inside your own heart, where God Himself has constructed a unique path to salvation. Journey through various levels, be renewed in grace, filled with the Holy Spirit, and transformed! Reflect on passages in Scripture, words from Doctors of the Church, lives of the Saints, and those of modern times.

### **ABOUT THE RETREAT DIRECTOR**

Stacy Malesiewski is a Catholic wife, mother of 4, writer and speaker. She is Vice President of Gray Matter Media and Knight of Truth Media and very passionate about the New Evangelization. For info visit [www.StacyMal.com](http://www.StacyMal.com)



**DIOCESE OF ERIE**  
**WORD OF LIFE**  
**Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center**  
429 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16514

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



**APRIL 2016**

Reflections is published monthly by:  
Word of Life Catholic  
Charismatic Renewal Center  
429 E. Grandview Blvd.  
Erie PA 16514  
**(814) 824-1286**  
fax: 824-1285  
e-mail: [wolccrc@eriercd.org](mailto:wolccrc@eriercd.org)  
website: [www.wordoflifecrc.org](http://www.wordoflifecrc.org)

The office is generally open on  
Wednesday and Thursday afternoons;  
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.

Editor: Jack Heintzel  
Writers: Kathy Wilcox, Agnes Helsley,  
Amy Mosbacher

**Volume XXX**

**Issue No. 4**