



Reflections

Volume XXXI
Issue No. 4

Word Of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

April 2017

POWER AT IT'S HEIGHT By Amy Mosbacher

It was one of those moments: I was searching through the Catechism of the Catholic Church for something when another unrelated line caught my eye, and that line made me stop where I was. Awe struck me anew. *"He displays His power at its height by freely forgiving sins."* (CCC 270). It's such a little line, but so much of our faith is conveyed by it

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him." (Col. 1:16.)

He created far-flung galaxies and dark matter and mysteries we can't even see. He formed quarks and other subatomic building blocks. He gives life and order, and *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."* (Eccl.3:1.) There's nothing that escapes His attention. He knows if even a sparrow falls to the ground (Mt. 10:29).

In the midst of all His Majesty's great deeds comes this little bit of creation called humanity. We know how that

turned out. When God saw things weren't going so well it would've been understandable if He'd scrapped the whole experiment. But no. Instead our Father decides that He can't stand to be apart from us and doesn't want us wandering in the darkness, so Jesus comes down from His beautiful Heaven into our shadowy world.

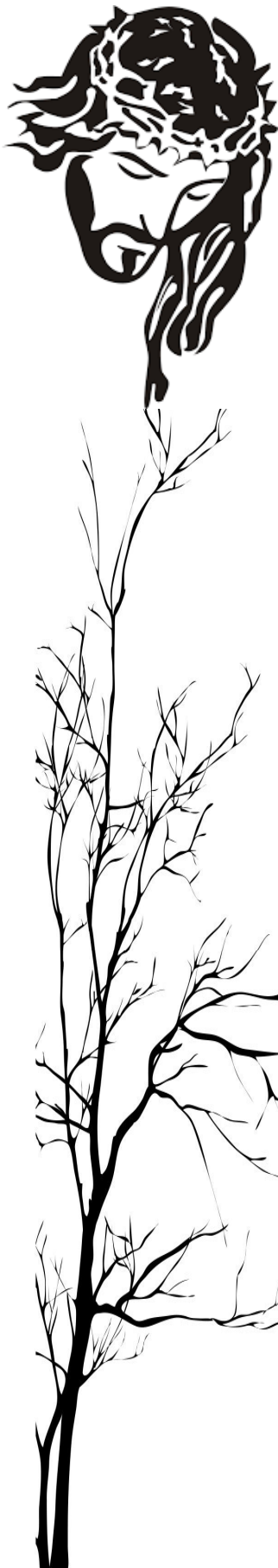
He takes on our weak humanity and consents to growing up in a family, obeying His mother and foster father. He risks being misunderstood and rejected. Finally our Lord submits to humiliation, torture and a most cruel death on a cross, because this is who He is, and it's what He does. God heals. On the cross Jesus uttered these among His last words, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* (Lk. 23:34). Forgive them. *"I protected them and kept them safe"* (Jn. 17:12). Forgive them.

"He displays His power at its height by freely forgiving sins." (CCC 270).

I cannot fathom the magnanimity of what our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, has done for us. Over and over again in His ministry

Jesus forgave sins, and He reminds us that we can do the same. Jesus told us, *"If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* (Jn 20:23). When Jesus taught us how to pray, He told us to ask forgiveness for our trespasses, just as we forgive those who trespass against us. But sometimes forgiveness is so hard. By ourselves we don't have the strength to do it. That's when we have to place our hurt in the Father's hands and say, "You forgive for me." He will eventually bring us to make the act for ourselves. Until then, be amazed that we don't have to do great works to be like our Father, we just have to forgive. That's when His awesome power at its height flows through us as well.

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MY NAME IS "MAN OF SORROWS"

By Julie Oldach

My name is "Man of Sorrows."
My suffering was so great.
Instead of words of love to me
They snarled out shouts of hate.

Even today the world pours
O'er the earth like rain
A constant barrage of "Jesus Christ,"
My name spilled out in vain.

I stood innocent before them,
Their God who loved them so.
My grief at their rejection
No one will ever know.

The whip began to strike
Savagely on my skin.
Thus began the battle
To rid the world of sin.

I thought about my people
And the reason I was born.
I loved them unconditionally,
Even with piercing thorn.

The blood began to trickle
And ooze slowly down my face.
"Father, help me bear this all
To save the human race."

Time to go to Calvary.
The heavy cross was lain
Without care upon my wounds
As flesh screamed out in pain.

I walked a million miles that day.
I saw your face before me.
I must open the gates of hell,
Only death would win the key.

My robe was torn away from me.
They shoved me to the ground,
So much unfeeling cruelty,
My heart began to pound.

My eyes looked up at heaven
To my Father always there.
He said, "Well done, my Son"
And gave me strength to bear.

The pounding of the nails
In my hands and in my feet,
Then the raising of the cross,
Soon my suffering was complete.

My friends, in hopeless unbelief,
Wept the next three days.
Suddenly from within the tomb
Burst the resurrection rays.

I am still the "Man of Sorrows,"
Still rejected when I call.
Their faces turn away from me
Though I gave my all.

Would you be my faithful one
To love me and to cherish
The memory of my suffering
So your soul would never perish?

Come and walk beside me now.
Trust me now and forever.
I'll lead you right to heaven,
A covenant none can sever.



UNDERSTANDING OUR NEED FOR BROKENNESS by Jack Heintzel

*"...a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise."
Ps. 51:17*

Listening to an audio tape by Nancy DeMoss of Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) helped me to see that I must be more humble before God. She states that being in a state of brokenness is crucial to our Christian walk. We are looking for revival in our personal lives and in the Erie Diocesan Renewal, and brokenness is a key to revival. Many of the successful revivals in modern times have only come after the Christian leaders recognized their pride and humbled themselves before almighty God.

Brokenness does not mean we are sad, gloomy, and morbid. It is not a state of false humility or deep hurtfulness. Genuine brokenness is a *choice*, an act of our wills. It's not a one-time experience, but rather an ongoing, absolute surrender of our will to God. It is a lifestyle of saying "not my will, but Your will be done, Lord." It means being transparent in our dealings with God and others. As DeMoss says, transparency is living with the roof off to God and the walls down in relation to others. An example is King David; when he was confronted about his sin with Bathsheba he was so contrite that he wrote Psalm 51 for the whole world to see. He didn't

care who knew about his sin; his heart was transparent.

Another Scriptural example is the sinful woman (Luke 7:36) who entered the house of Simon when Jesus was there. She was so sorrowful about her sins that she wet Jesus' feet with her tears and poured perfume on them. She wept openly and didn't care who was there, so great was her love for Jesus and her appreciation for His forgiveness; the broken woman or man doesn't care what others think. In contrast, Simon and the other Pharisees were insensitive to their sins and indignant about this woman.

What are some of the attributes of broken people? They esteem others as being better than self, and surrendering their need to be right. They promote others over self, and are *eager* to have others get the credit. Broken people know that all they have to offer is the life of Jesus flowing through them. They are willing to be rebuked and corrected. They race to the cross of Jesus Christ; they compare themselves to the holiness of God and see their need of repentance. Broken people are obedient to God and want only to do His will.

Let us not deceive ourselves. We must be humble to be broken. Let us ask God to show us where we are hard of heart and unyielding to Him. We must purify our hearts, get rid of

double-mindedness, and learn to hate our sins and mourn over them. May we have a real sense of spiritual need, and come humbly to the Cross. Jesus will meet us there.



Asking for your help

The editor of this newsletter is asking all readers to strongly consider contributing articles. I believe that there are people reading this publication who have writing ability and could provide articles that would edify those who subscribe. I'm not asking you to submit every month, but as often as you can. Please pray about this, and let me know what you might be able to do. Thank you.

Jack Heintzel, Editor

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

16514

Phone: (814) 824-1286

Fax: (814) 824-1285

e-mail: wolccrc@eriercd.org

website: www.wordoflifecrc.org

HEALING MASS

Our Lady of Peace Church
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM
First Wednesday of the month

CONTEMPORARY MASS

Every Sunday 11:00 AM
St. Joseph Church /
Bread of Life Community
Children's Liturgy of the Word

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Bread of Life Chapel
St. Joseph Community Center

CHAPLET OF MERCY

Every day 3:00 PM
Bread of Life Chapel

ST. JOSEPH NOVENA

Every Wednesday 7:00 PM
St. Joseph Church /
Bread of Life Community

Penance and Fasting

Jesus challenged us to take up our cross and follow Him. For the Christian, carrying a cross is not an option. A choice as to which cross to carry is a luxury given to some. Many do not need to ask questions about fasting and abstinence. They do not choose their crosses; such things are simply part of their daily existence. Perhaps alleviating that burden (and helping them carry that cross) might be an excellent place for us to begin thinking about the penance and fasting we do. Abstaining from certain foods is only the beginning. We must also look to how we use our choices to strengthen our faith and help those whose crosses are so hard to carry.

Lynn McIntire

Resurrection

Faith in the resurrection of Christ never misleads us, and hope in our own resurrection never deceives us, because God the Father both restored our Lord to life and will restore us to life too by virtue of His power. *St. Bede the Venerable*

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 (814) 838-1325

† TUESDAY:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM
Pat Montefiori (814) 823-3968

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10 AM – 12 Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519

† THURSDAY:

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon (814) 836-4165

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00 PM
John Griebel (814) 825-3588

† 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)

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
1116 West 7th St.

3:15 pm (after Mass)

Mary Lou Peterson (814) 866-5678

River of Life PG

2nd & 4th Monday evenings

7:00PM

St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4

Meadville, PA

Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104

† WEDNESDAY:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00 PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA

† FRIDAY:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting
Call for location 7:00 PM
T.A. Walkiewicz (814) 833-9717



For information on
National Catholic
Charismatic Renewal visit:
<http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/>

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

By Kathy Wilcox

Change. My spiritual goal, real change, demonstrates active Christian growth. Will desire for conversion make it happen? How does real transformation occur?

As I pondered this question, I went to Mass. Fr. Matthew began his homily with a science lesson. It was an interesting way of explaining change, and the best I have ever heard. He introduced a worm-like creature known as a caterpillar. The caterpillar (larva) started as an egg and quickly turned into a fat glutton, gross and ugly. He hangs upside down and attaches to a tree branch, spinning a cocoon around his body, activating the pupa (chrysalis) stage of the process. By the end of just a month an egg became a caterpillar that became a pupa and then a butterfly. "Ok, so far this is 3rd grade science; I know about metamorphosis," I mused. He continued with these words: "Only God," he explained, "can change a worm into a butterfly." The details were new information. First of all, the fat, ugly caterpillar must put himself in a straitjacket, the cocoon. Inside of it, he dies, and his body dissolves into a liquid protein. In that liquid are the cells for all the components of the butterfly's body. These cells miraculously do not die with the caterpillar. The caterpillar's dissolved body becomes the fertile ground in

which the butterfly develops and matures. The adult butterfly emerges from the cocoon, transformed and beautiful. It is a miracle that it happens and also *how* it happens. Scientists discovered how metamorphosis occurs, but they cannot recreate it or explain it themselves.

"Only God can change a worm into a butterfly!"



So what about me? I am the worm. How do I become a butterfly? It will never happen if I choose to stay a worm focused on self-indulgence. Fr. Matthew carefully pointed out that modern folks choose television, computers, cellphones and eating out instead of their relationship with God. I must separate myself from these distractions and surround myself with a cocoon of self-discipline. In this environment, my sin nature will be silenced and my free will submitted to God. My soul, which will not die with my body, will be freed to grow and release the unique qualities God planted within me at conception. God can change my heart, but I must enter into a disciplined state necessary for the death of my will to occur. The miracle of transformation will be obvious. I will emerge one of God's beautiful butterflies.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments, and do them... Without Me you can do nothing" (Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 15:5).



Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world:



but be ye transformed (GK- metamorphoo) by the renewing of your mind,



that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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PRAYER BRUNCH REVIEW BY Loretta Swartwood

If you weren't at the prayer brunch on March 11th you missed a wonderful time.

Guest speakers John and Judy Skuce shared their testimony and how God used John's father's addiction to bring John back to Him. John reminded us that behind every addiction is pain.

Through the healing process, John discovered that in spite of his father's addiction to alcohol, he taught John many good life lessons. "Sometimes your heart needs time to catch up with what your head already knows".

John and Judy also shared what they have learned about living with Alzheimer's. Judy was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2009. Eight years later she is still able to do many of the things she has always enjoyed, just a little bit differently. She has a beautiful smile and a wonderful sense of humor.

They are advocates for the Alzheimer's Association. Their advice for those who have been affected by this disease, you must exercise your mind, exercise your body, maintain your medications, and maintain your social circles. Keeping in touch with the people and activities you love help keep the disease from progressing.

Thank you John and Judy for sharing your testimony with us. We have been truly blessed by you.

The following was shared by Judy at the brunch.

IF I GET DEMENTIA

by Rachael Wonderlin

IF I GET DEMENTIA, I want my friends and family to embrace my reality. If I think my spouse is still alive, or if I think we're visiting my parents for dinner, let me believe those things. I'll be much happier for it.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, I don't want to be treated like a child. Talk to me like the adult that I am.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, I still want to enjoy the things that I've always enjoyed. Help me find a way to exercise, read, and visit with friends.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, ask me to tell you a story from my past.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, and I become agitated, take the time to figure out what is bothering me.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, treat me the way that you would want to be treated.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, make sure that there are plenty of snacks for me in the house. Even now if I don't eat I get angry, and if I have dementia, I may have trouble explaining what I need.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, don't talk about me as if I'm not in the room.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, don't feel guilty if you cannot care for me 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's not your fault, and you've done your best. Find someone who can help you, or choose a great new place for me to live.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, and I live in a dementia care community, please visit me often.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, don't act frustrated if I mix up names, events, or places. Take a deep breath. It's not my fault.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, make sure I always have my favorite music playing within earshot.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, and I like to pick up items and carry them around, help me return those items to their original places.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, don't exclude me from parties and family gatherings.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, know that I still like receiving hugs or handshakes.

IF I GET DEMENTIA, remember that I am still the person you know and love.



CAN A DYING LANGUAGE BE SAVED?

Aramaic, a Semitic language related to Hebrew and Arabic, was the common tongue of the entire Middle East when the Middle East was the crossroads of the world. People used it for commerce and government across a territory stretching from Egypt and the Holy Land to India and China. Parts of the Bible and the Jewish Talmud were written in it; the original “writing on the wall,” presaging the fall of the Babylonians, was composed in it. As Jesus died on the cross, he cried in Aramaic, “*Elahi, Elahi, lema habaqtani?*” (“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”)

But Aramaic is down now to its last generation or two of speakers, most of them scattered over the past century from homelands where their language once flourished. In their new lands, few children and even fewer grandchildren learn it. (My father, a Jew born in Kurdish Iraq, is a native speaker and scholar of Aramaic; I grew up in Los Angeles and know just a few words.) This generational rupture marks a language’s last days. For field linguists recording native speakers—“informants,” in the lingo—is both an act of cultural

preservation and an investigation into how ancient languages shift and splinter over time.

In a highly connected global age, languages are in die-off. Fifty to 90 percent of the roughly 7,000 languages spoken today are expected to go silent by century’s end. We live under an oligarchy of English and Mandarin and Spanish, in which 94 percent of the world’s population speaks 6 percent of its languages. Yet among threatened languages, Aramaic stands out. Arguably no other still-spoken language has fallen farther. Its first speakers, the Arameans, were desert nomads. (The Bible describes the forebear of the Hebrews—Jacob, or Israel,--- as “a wandering Aramean.”) Spreading out from ancient Syria, they so blanketed Mesopotamia that when the Assyrians conquered the Middle East in the eighth century BC, they adopted Aramaic—not their own tongue, Akkadian—as a language of empire. So did the Babylonians when they vanquished the Assyrians, and the Persians when they toppled the Babylonians. The language crossed the lips of Christians, Jews, Mandeans, Manicheans,

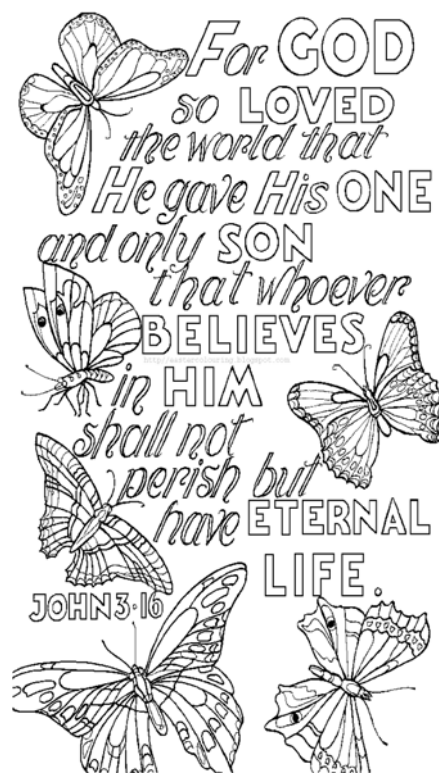
Muslims, Samaritans, Zoroastrians and pagans.

The writing on the wall (the proverbial sort) came for Aramaic in the seventh century AD, when Muslim armies from Arabia conquered the Middle East, and Arabic routed Aramaic as the region’s main language. Aramaic survived only in the Kurdish mountains of Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria, places so remote they never got the memo. Jews and Christians there (though not Muslims, who spoke Kurdish) kept up Aramaic as an everyday tongue for another 1,300 years.

Taken from Smithsonian Magazine, “How to Save a Dying Language”, online excerpt 187947061.html. Author not identified.



Easter Sunday
April 16, 2017



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WORD OF LIFE

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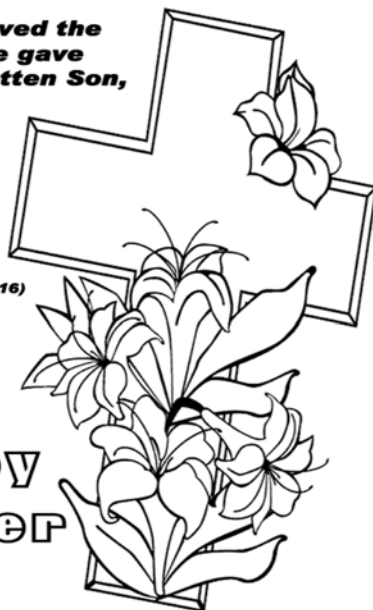


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***For God so loved the
world, that he gave
his only begotten Son,
that
whosoever
believeth in
him should
not perish,
but have
everlasting
life.***

(John 3:16)



**HAPPY
EASTER**

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

Phone: (814) 824-1286
Fax: (814) 824-1285
e-mail: wolccrc@eriercd.org
website: www.wordoflifecrc.org

The office is generally open on
Wednesday and/or Thursday only.

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

FORMATTING/GRAPHICS:

Loretta Swartwood

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