



Reflections

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

August 2014

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

Truth – a rare commodity

By Agnes Helsley

I remember the line of a song that says “What the world needs now is love, sweet love,” with which we could all agree. But I am wondering if the need for truth isn’t fast overtaking the need for love. We live in a time of constant communication. Words are continually assaulting our eyes and our ears, but how much truth, real truth, is being broadcast?

The late Dr. D. James Kennedy interviewed the ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings after that anchor hosted the documentary “The Search for Jesus.” Kennedy was disturbed by the way the program distorted the truth, in his opinion. Jennings’ memorable response was “Your truth I fully, whole- heartedly accept. But it’s not everybody’s truth, and you know that.” Condensed, the modern perspective on truth is relative. “I have mine, you have yours, and it is rude, if not downright imperialistic and oppressive, to claim there is an objective truth that stands over all of us.”

The Bible relates the incident in the trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate when Jesus responds to Pilate’s questioning if Jesus was a king. “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I

was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me (Jn 18:37).” Pilate’s world-weary query is “What is truth?” Lack of belief in God denies an objective truth, a constant truth. We will be held accountable, that is, judged, for our response to truth.

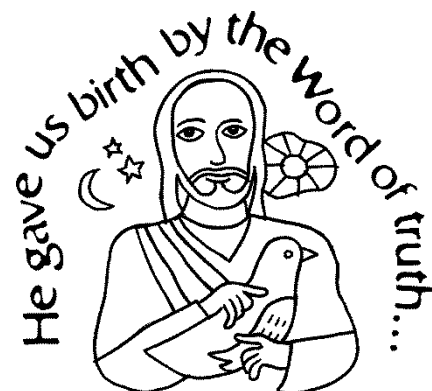
Jesus in His priestly prayer (Jn 17:16-17) asks Father God to sanctify the followers of Jesus in truth. God’s word is truth. A great “arrow prayer” for our times would be “Father, let your truth prevail in our hearts, our world.” Ps. 119:160 is to the point: “All Your words are true; all Your righteous laws are eternal.” God has spoken His truth in His Word. The Word of God endures forever! “Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior and my hope is in You all day long (Ps. 25:4-5).” As we endeavor to fulfill our obligation as ambassadors of a heavenly kingdom, let us commit ourselves to speaking and living the truth as we await the coming of that kingdom.

The Gospel truth

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because He has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son (John 3:17, 18).”

The temptation is to limit the message to God’s love for the world, but to be silent about the equally important and living truth that those who do not believe in Him will be condemned.

Excerpt from “St. Francis Used Words” by Peter Herbeck



JAMES 1:18, NRSV

Centering in

By Liz Geary

Day of Renewal

You are invited to (and please give serious consideration to) attending the Day of Renewal sponsored by the Word of Life Center. "Fully Catholic, Fully Charismatic" will take place on Saturday, September 6th at St. Joe's/Bread of Life Community Center from 8:30 AM until 4 PM. Our featured speaker for the day will be Renée Marazon from Toledo. Bart Foradora and friends will lead praise and worship. You will find more information and a registration form on page 7. I hope to see you on September 6th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Center.

Many "thanks" required

I would like to thank speaker Susan Yurkewicz, musician Jim Dzuricky and caterer April Blum for the amazing work at the summer prayer brunch on Saturday, June 21st. Thanks to everyone who attended and made the morning so inspiring. As always, none of this would be possible without the help of those who help with set-up and clean-up. You are truly God's hands and feet!

I would like to thank another group who has been working in the vineyard. Many thanks to the team for the Albion prison Life in the Spirit Seminar which took place on Saturday, June 28th. Many thanks also go to Dan Zuba for his work in organizing the day and leading the team. You are all very much appreciated!

Office updates

The office of the Word of Life Center will be closed due to the closing of St. Mark Catholic Center on Friday, August 15th to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please be advised that since the Word of Life Center office is located in St. Mark Catholic Center, the Word of Life office will be closed when St. Mark Catholic Center is closed for a holiday. The office will also be closed on Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day. You are welcome to leave voice mail messages at the office, but messages may not be returned until the next scheduled day of business.

"Rock the Lakes" in Erie

The Franklin Graham conference "Rock the Lakes" will take place on Saturday, September 27th and Sunday, September 28th at the Erie Insurance Arena. Everyone is invited to attend. More information and registration forms are available by visiting www.RocktheLakes.org or calling 814-315-0038.

Life in the Spirit Seminar at Holy Rosary

I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone involved in the Life in the Spirit Seminar that recently took place at Holy Rosary church. Thanks to the team for organizing the seminar, and thanks to those who attended. The Spirit is alive and well! I look forward to seeing participants at Word of Life Center events in the near future!

Welcome

The Word of Life Center would like to extend a warm welcome to new members on the Board of Directors. A special welcome to: Shirley Ireland, Pat Montefiori and Dan Zuba. They will join Fr. David Poulson, chair; Jack Heintzel, vice-chair; T.A. Walkiewicz, Secretary; Mary Beth Whitman, Treasurer; and Joe Kirsch. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with the ministry of the Word of Life Center. Your efforts in the ministry are extremely appreciated.

Happy Anniversary

On September 6th I will celebrate my third anniversary as Administrator of the Word of Life Renewal Center. How fitting that this anniversary coincides with our Day of Renewal! My hiring by the Executive Committee was the first of many changes that have taken place over the last three years. I am so grateful to God for working through me and giving me the courage to say "yes" to His plan. I would also like to thank all of you for welcoming me and making these first years of transition so uplifting and memorable. I have witnessed God doing great things in big and small ways through this ministry! I look forward to many more years of working in the vineyard of the ministry of the Word of Life Renewal Center!

The sign of the cross

By Amy Mosbacher

"I've had friends who've stopped speaking to me," remarked a Methodist pastor I was talking to, "simply because I've started crossing myself. I've reached the conclusion, for me personally, that the sign of the cross is one of the most powerful tools we have." I marveled as this young man continued to tell me of his Protestant upbringing, formation with some Catholic seminary classes, and trials in the first few years of his ministry. Sometimes it takes those who aren't cradle Catholics to appreciate the riches of our faith, in this case, the sign of the cross.

Jesus told us to "...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). Those words, combined with tracing the cross, the instrument of salvation Jesus chose, represent the foundation of our belief as Catholic Christians. The cross contains a tremendous amount of catechesis, most obviously the mystery of the Trinity. To make it implies a loving act of faith as we whisper the words to ourselves, recalling the hope to which our faith calls us and the love which fixed Jesus on its beams. The cross boldly states whom we belong to as we call God "Father." And in any suffering, fear or sickness we may make the sign knowing that "...the devil beholding that royal sign may flee far away trembling." (Words of St. Cyril of Jerusalem (c. A.D. 315-86). The cross has led the way for countless armies as far back as Constantine (A.D. 312),

when as he was marching into battle he saw above the sun a cross of light and the words "in hoc signo vinces," or "in this sign, you will conquer." Constantine subsequently abolished crucifixion as a form of execution and Christians began using the cross as a symbol of their faith. Christians throughout the world utilized the sign; even Martin Luther in his Small Catechism recommended it. However, in the 16th or 17th century some Protestant Reformers claimed the sign of the cross was too Catholic and stopped using it. So for a great many people the graces from this form of worship were lost.

I tell my CCD class to make the sign of the cross carefully and with respect and to try not to look like they're swatting flies. There have been books written on the power of the sign of the cross. Imagine the great shield you're making around yourself to ward off the devil. If a battle is being waged, wouldn't you want your shield made well? Let's be proud of the gift Jesus gave us in the sign of the cross and not be afraid to make it. The cross is God's power, not ours. He will show His power through us. How often do we shy away from making the sign publically? Challenge ourselves in small ways at first: try making it before meals at a restaurant. Perhaps we can be God's army in our towns and fight against a culture of death simply by making the sign of the cross.

St. Benedict's prayer

Gracious and holy God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intelligence to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- St. Benedict



Plain and simple

How can we know that what Jesus has shown us of God is the truth; or how do we know when we look into the face of Jesus that we are looking into the face of God? The answer is so plain and simple that it is a marvel how intelligent men can manage to miss it as they do. Look at what Christ has done for the soul of man: That is your answer. Christianity is just Christ – nothing more and nothing less. It is a way of life, and He is that way. It is the truth about human destiny, and He is that truth.

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday August 6, 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

Sr. Norbert Wiley
Jackie Fontecchio

Requested by

Gus & Judi Janke
Lillian Herbstritt

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.

**Life is a mirror: If you frown at it,
It frowns back;
If you smile, it returns the greeting.**

— William Thackeray

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
August 3,10,17,24,31

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
August 3,10,17,24,31

† 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
August 4,11,18,25

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
August 4,11,18,25
(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
August 11,25

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
August 5,12,19,26

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
August 5,12,19,26

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
August 6,13,20,27

† Thursday: Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
August 14

St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life Prayer Meeting

7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connelly (814) 866-0505
August 7,14,21,28 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
John Griebel 825-3588
August 7,14,21,28

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
August 1,8,15,22,29

I almost threw Mary away

By Kathy Wilcox

In 2009 I had the task of going through my late mother's things, and it was *difficult*. Every box was full of memories and treasures. Mom loved Jesus and Mary and if she stopped at a rummage or yard sale, she would bring home any religious articles she found. Some were statues in need of repair but Mom, a ceramics student, intended to repair these treasures.

I was under pressure to get the house empty and ready to sell. I picked up a large statue of Mary, and decided it was beyond help. Mary's nose and crown were damaged. Her head had been broken off and re-glued, but was done so poorly that the crack was a dark gash and her veil down her back was crooked. The rest of the statue was scratched and chipped. "Hopeless," I decided. I placed Mary's head down in the partially filled trash can in the empty kitchen. Only the base of the statue was visible, but every time I walked by, I felt a twinge of guilt. Trying to keep my resolve to get rid of stuff, I prepared a cup of tea and tossed the used tea bag in the trash can - on top of Mary.

I had a doctor appointment that afternoon so I changed clothes in the bathroom and hurried out the door. When I returned, I went to the kitchen to put a TV dinner in the oven for supper. When I turned on the light I stopped. I was stunned as I stared at the floor where the tea bag lay - in front of the trash can. There was absolutely no way the tea bag could have gotten out of the trash can. I knew that I put it in there because I felt so guilty doing it. I slowly walked to the trash can. I picked up Mary

and held her close as tears dripped down my face. "I am so sorry, Mary," I cried.

Then I realized that not only had I put the Mary statue in the garbage, I had also pushed Mary out of my life. It had been a long time since I had prayed my daily rosary. I wrapped Mary in a soft blanket, resolving to find someone to restore her to original condition.

Several years went by and Mary was still in the box. I spoke with a friend who did statue repair, but she was busy with several large jobs. This spring I visited with a friend and told her my statue story. To my surprise, she informed me that her daughter is an artist and could probably fix it. She insisted that I give her the statue. When I opened the box, I was again aghast at the poor condition of the statue. "If Kathleen can't fix it, I will understand," I told her.

Within a few days, Kathleen called me and apologized that she could not restore the statue; she had to repaint. Mary's broken nose and crown were restored, her veil again perfect. And there is no evidence of the large gaping crack around her neck. She is so beautiful, and now I have tears of joy. Mary's statue is back in my life and so is her rosary. I can sometimes pray four rosaries a day, and the more I pray, the greater my joy.

I am glad that Mary did not let me throw her away.

The fire in Ann's faith

Young Ann returned from church camp glowing. The woodsy setting, new friends, Bible studies, joyful choruses, prayer times, sharing around campfires and a service of dedication all served to ignite her faith.

The next Sunday she went to church. After the intensity of her camp experience, the congregation's worship seemed lethargic. "What's the matter?" she wondered. "Don't they know Christ is alive?"

That week she made an appointment with her pastor and explained to him her disappointment.

"Ann" the pastor said gently. "You are still aglow from the church camp. Most of us were also enthusiastic when first we took Christ seriously. But bonding with Christ can loosen unless we strive to keep the relationship strong."

"Frequently," he continued, "we need to hear again how Christ still changes lives. Obviously you understand that. You could help us all if you would tell us next Sunday about how Christ has put fire in your faith, bringing you such joy and renewal. Your witness may help stir up the coals of faith in the rest of us."

Ann did just that. And that is how renewal started in one congregation.



Renewal news and Christian report

By Jack Heintzel

• A recent letter from the U.S. National Service Committee included an encouraging word from Pope Francis. He said the following in an address to over 50,000 participants from 55 countries at the Italian Catholic Charismatic Renewal's National Convention in Rome in early June of 2014. "You, people of God, people of the Charismatic Renewal, be careful to not lose the freedom that the Holy Spirit has given you." He also said the following: "You, Charismatic Renewal, have received a great gift from the Lord. You were born of the will of the Spirit as a current of grace in the Church and for the Church. I expect from you that you share with all in the Church the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit. And I await you all, Charismatics of the world, to celebrate with the Pope your Great Jubilee in Pentecost of 2017 in Saint Peter's Square."

• Locally, the Erie Times-News issue of June 14, 2014 included an article by Dana Massing on the *Rock the Lakes Erie* gathering to be held on September 27-28 at Erie Insurance Arena. Organizers want to make a physical as well as a spiritual difference in the city and the surrounding area. The local team is working in cooperation with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Numerous programs are planned. Volunteers will be going out into Erie County, working on Community Action projects like

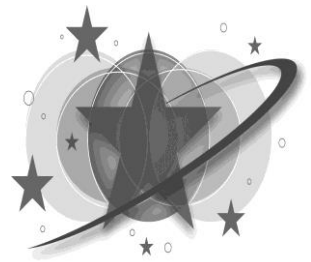
packing food boxes for senior citizens, picking up trash, and planting flowers. The organizers want to encourage Christians to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community. A series of prayer walks will be held. More information is available by accessing www.rockthelakes.org website or calling 814-402-0299.

• The Every Home for Christ evangelistic newsletter of June 23, 2014 reports marvelous happenings in the world. This organization spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ by distributing Christian literature worldwide, one home at a time. After reporting on conversions in Argentina, they go on to describe efforts in Haiti. "When ECH launched the ministry there just a few years ago, the darkness was unmistakable. The island nation had been pummeled by a devastating earthquake, exposing shoddy physical and spiritual foundations that left the Haitian people more desperate than ever before. But God never wastes an opportunity! This devastating time in Haiti's history has dawned a new era of ministry, and the stories we've received are amazing. When EHC workers reached a village called Passe a Roche, there was no church in the area as the villagers were immersed in the practice of voodoo. After a home-to-home outreach there, many began turning to Christ. Soon EHC workers returned to the village to plant a Christ Group to disciple the new believers. Ministry continued in the small village, and today that initial Christ Group is an established church of 80 members who are reaching out to other

communities with the Gospel." Also, a woman named Sergeline, who had spent her life practicing voodoo, believed she was tormented by a demonic spirit. After she attended a Christ Group service she was prayed for and was healed instantly. There are reports of other remarkable healings in this area. The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, defeating Satan and nullifying his work.

Our place in the universe

"When I look at the galaxies on a clear night, when I look at the incredible brilliance



of creation, and think that this is what God is like, then instead of feeling intimidated and diminished by it, I am enlarged," said author Madeleine L'Engle. "I rejoice that I am a part of it."

How wonderful – and mysterious – that the Creator of the universe not only knows and loves us but wants us to know and love Him! Incredibly, we are at once infinitesimally small and yet immeasurably significant because of whose we are.



Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center Presents

A Day of Renewal with Renee Marazon

Saturday, September 6, 2014 *"Fully Catholic,*
8:30AM—4:30PM

Fully Charismatic"

**St. Joseph Church/
Bread of Life
Community Center
147 West 24th St.**

**Registration Fee:
\$20.00 per person
Brown Bag lunch.
Center will provide
drinks.**

**Praise and Worship
Led by
Bart Foradora and
friends**

Director: Renee Marazon

Renee Marazon is a Catholic author, consultant, and conference/retreat presenter. She serves as a Catholic Charismatic Renewal National Service Committee Council Member and is actively involved in her home parish, Blessed John XXIII in Perrysburg, Ohio.

She has a passionate love for the Lord and a deep desire to be a part of the renewal of the Church in this New Millennium. Ms. Marazon has helped parish communities develop a



Renee Marazon

parish wide charism discernment process for living more fully and intentionally "in the Spirit."

She conducts parish missions, retreats, and workshops for laity, priests, and religious. Her passion is to share the joy and excitement of "Life in the Spirit" with all those she meets.



Join us for this day of renewal
Be set on fire again by the Holy Spirit

Register on line at www.wordoflifecrc.org

For further information call (814) 824-1286 or E-mail: wolccrc@eriercd.org

2014 Day of Renewal September 6, 2014

Registration included \$20.00 _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Send to: Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie PA 16504

DIOCESE OF ERIE
WORD OF LIFE
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center
429 East Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA 16504

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

Reflections is published monthly by:
Word of Life Catholic
Charismatic Renewal Center
429 E. Grandview Blvd.
Erie PA 16504
(814) 824-1286
e-mail: wolccrc@eriercd.org
website: www.wordoflifecrc.org

Office hours:
M-W-F. 8am – 2:30pm

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: Liz Geary, Kathy Wilcox, Agnes Helsley, Amy Mosbacher

Typist: Carol Mando

Volume XXVIII

Issue No. 8



Will you not
revive
us again, that
your people may
rejoice
in you?
PSALM 85:6, ESV

August 2014