



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

August 2015

Is God remodeling our Church?

By Kathy Wilcox

One of our ladies in the Beloved Daughters prayer group at Cambridge Springs prison was sharing her frustration of worrying about her children, but not being able to counsel them. They told her she had lost the right to do so. Her situation is typical of many women in prison; they feel helpless and guilty about not being there for their children. After entering into a relationship with Christ, she realized that the one thing she could do was pray. One day Our Lord gave her a vision of a home being remodeled. He explained that He was the carpenter, and was taking down walls, and repairing and replacing what was necessary. "But how can He do that?" she wondered. Jesus reminded her that He was also the architect, and she could trust the plan He had for rebuilding her life and family.

Is Our Lord using Pope Francis to remodel the church? He is making strong statements; he is calling us to make radical changes in our attitudes and life style. We have to remember

that when Jorge Bergoglio chose the name Francis, he was honoring Saint Francis of Assisi, who had a profound influence on the church in the early 1200's. Young Francis of Assisi was born into wealth, and in his early years was immersed in the party life of the city which was easy to do; degradation and sin were rampant. Francis had a young man's dreams of becoming a knight and his fancies took him first into battle, then capture and imprisonment. His father ransomed him after a year of living in horrific conditions, but he was so ill when he got home that he was bedridden. God used his suffering and recovery time to work on his heart.

Francis' prison experience and illness gave him empathy for the infirm and poor, and his conversion began. He ultimately walked away from wealth and became a beggar, advocating for the poor and the lepers. God's plan was bigger than Francis' conversion, however. While at prayer in an ancient church at San Damiano, he heard Christ on the crucifix

speak to him, "Francis, repair my church."

The church at the time was run by clergy who became rich and powerful through their involvement with the politically wealthy and corrupt upper class. Francis drew many followers to his new life style with his charismatic personality and sincere love of God. They lived a Christ-like life. With their example and humble service to the poor and outcast, thousands were converted and introduced to a personal, emotional relationship with Christ. Is our church and the world in need of another Francis? It is quite obvious that wealth has become more important than people and that debauchery is the popular lifestyle.

Jesus is tearing down walls, getting rid of decay and shoring up core teachings and values. He is calling us to stand strong and some may turn away. We will have to choose; will we follow the Carpenter from Nazareth or be dragged down into the rapidly decaying world?

Centering in

By Jack Heintzel

Coming events

The Board of Directors wants to make you aware of these coming events:

- **Prayer Brunch** –

August 22 at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center; the speaker will be Deacon Jerry Peterson (see p. 7). Everyone is welcome.

- **Day of Renewal** –

October 17 at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center. Speaker to be announced.

Continual prayer need

We ask for your prayers for the Center as we go forward. Consider fasting also in support of your prayers. This is important for the needs of the Word of Life Center and the Diocesan Renewal in the Erie Diocese.

Opportunities at the WOLC

The renewal center is looking for help in some key areas:

- We would like volunteer help for this newsletter. The editor would like someone to help in typing and formatting. Training is available. Also, help is needed for getting the newsletters to the main Post Office for mailing. Contact Jack Heintzel at 814-838-1325.
- Volunteers are requested for setting up events. Again, training is available. See T.A. Walkiewicz for information. Her phone no. is 814-833-9717.
- Help is also requested for our office at St. Mark Center. At present there is no one at the WOLC Center, even part time. Call either T.A. or Jack to discuss the needs there.

Anointing of the Spirit

By Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C.

“Have you had a personal experience of Pentecost?”

This was the question that Fr. Jim Ferry asked me 46 years ago. It led me to pray to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, changed my life and gave me a new ministry. I left teaching about World History and began traveling the world to teach about Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the glory of the Father.

What I have seen and heard speaking at conferences in over 60 countries is that when we come to God with expectant faith, asking for a new Pentecost, He hears our prayer and pours out His Holy Spirit and the charisms in great abundance.

However, I’ve also experienced a tendency to focus on praying for healing and neglecting to continue leading people in prayer to be baptized in the Spirit. At the first Pentecost the crowd asked Peter, “What do we have to do to receive this Holy Spirit?” St. Peter’s answer, “Repent, accept Jesus as Lord and you will receive the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38) frames the way I learned to pray with people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

In our healing services we experience many signs and wonders (resting in the Spirit, healings, etc.) and these are wonderful manifestations of God’s love. However, leaders of such services should work to encourage repentance and a desire to be baptized in the Holy

Spirit among the participants. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is so much more than healing or resting in the Spirit. It is “a life transforming experience of the love of God the Father poured into one’s heart by the Holy Spirit, received through a surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ....and equips a person with charisms for service and mission (ICCRS, *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, p. 13).

The call of the Church to a new evangelization is one the Charismatic Renewal has heard from the Holy Spirit and has responded to generously for many years. Our Holy Father recognized this recently when he said, “The Charismatic Renewal is a great force at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel, in the joy of the Holy Spirit.” The challenge now, as leaders age, is to pass on the responsibility and the work of service to younger leaders to, in turn, raise up new leaders. We need to move on to today’s anointing of the Spirit for us and leave yesterday’s anointing to those new people whom God is raising up...and I believe that in this way we will all experience a new Pentecost.

Excerpted from Pentecost Today, Vol. 40, No. 3, Summer 2015.

Keep moving forward

Courage! In the spiritual life, whoever doesn’t go forward goes backward. It’s the same as with a boat that must always go forward. If it stands still, the wind will blow it back.

- Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

Stay Strong

By Amy Mosbacher

"I sense that someone is being healed of..." We hear this often at large prayer meetings or conferences, and usually someone claims that healing, whether they make it public or not. But consider this: What if no one stepped forward to voice that word of healing? You can't claim something that wasn't offered. God can heal anytime He wants to without us, but He chooses over and over again to use us as intercessors and His means to accomplish His will. But what if we inadvertently stop cooperating?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit flourished until the 3rd or 4th century and then died down, only to be renewed in the 20th century. "O Holy Spirit, renew thy wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost" was the prayer of Pope St. John XXIII every day after Mass leading up to the second Vatican Council, and for a while the spiritual gifts blossomed again. "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days." (Joel 2:28-29). These are the days (before the

great and terrible day of the Lord v.31) when God has once again given us of His Spirit. *Yet already there seems to be a decline in the use of the gifts.* I hear the remark made by some that the Renewal is dead, or perhaps the Spirit is using people in "not so charismatic" ways. Would God have stopped pouring out His Spirit on us, or has our response simply changed?

God never changes, but we sinful people are fickle, running from this fad to that. At first our response was one of wonder and awe, praising God for the glorious things He is doing. But many people couldn't rationalize these supernatural gifts with their explanation of the world and began to slander them, coming up with all sorts of reasons why they weren't real. Hebrews 13:9 warns us "Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings." And in 2 Tim. 4:3-4 He says: "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." Throughout the New

Testament we are forewarned that false ideologies will rise up to counter who God is. Have we inadvertently let ourselves be swayed by philosophies which try to separate faith and reason? Have we succumbed to ridicule, fear or embarrassment and only use a few gifts in the privacy of prayer groups?

The devil is raging hard these days, and his fight against God is escalating. We need to be active in our love and life for God. "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:14-15). We must hold fast to what we know, that God can work through mysterious ways beyond our understanding, and it's okay if we don't understand. We only need to trust that He has our best interests in mind and "that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6c). Don't be afraid! Blessed and praised be God forever.

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace

2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM
Wednesday June 3, July 1

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

Four friends
Terry Geary

Requested by

Sr. Marie Celeste
Jean and Jack 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.

**God loves you, But even more, God longs for you.
God misses you when you don't come close. God
thirsts for you. God loves you always, even when
you don't feel worthy.**

- Bl. Teresa of Calcutta

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
June 7,14,21,28; July 5,12,19,26

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
June 7,14,21,28; July 5,12,19,26

† 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
June 1,8,15,22,29; July 6,13,20,27

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00 PM (before Mass)
June 1,8,15,22,29; 6,13,20,27
(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
June 8,22; July 13,27

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
June 2,9,16,,23,30; July 7,14,21,28

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10 AM – 12 Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
June 2,9,16,23,30; July 7,14,21,28

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00 PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
June 3,10,17,24; July 1,8,15,22,29

† Thursday:

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
June 11; July 9

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00 PM
John Griebel 825-3588
June 4,11,18,25; July 2,9,16,23,30

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30 PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
June 5,12,19,26; 3,10,17,24,31



Hope does not disappoint

By Agnes Helsley

July was a stressful time for conservative Christians, at least for this one! The encouragement from our priests at Our Lady of Peace Church was helpful for me to lift the heaviness of spirit. Scripture puts it all in perspective, especially Romans 5:1-5: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit he has given us."

The hope that the Spirit pours into our hearts gives us a rock to stand on as the chaotic world tries to unbalance us. Our hope is embedded in our trust in an all-powerful and all-knowing God. We who have placed our faith in God have to demonstrate the hope which is ours in Him. He will right the wrongs, He will make the lion lie down with the lamb, and make all wars cease. We cannot despair because man disregards God's word and dares to alter His law. Our eyes belong on the "author and finisher of our faith, Jesus."

Hope based on faith is one of the most distinct characteristics

of a believer. We should be a manifestation of perfect peace; we have read the end of the Book and we know who wins! May God give us grace to view world affairs through the lens of hope that expects to experience the promises of the Most High God in the perfection of His time. Thank God for His patience in guiding us on our journey; He is a loving God, faithful and true. Let us be faithful in prayer for fellow believers, and pray also for our enemies that they may be converted and find salvation in Jesus.

A prayer to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit of God, come into my heart and fill me. I open the windows of my soul to let you in. I surrender my whole life to you. Come possess me and fill me with light and truth. Fill me so that I may live the life of the Spirit: the life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Guide me in all things. Holy Spirit, I want to open up my unopened gifts. Help me to grow more in the already opened gifts I may have: new tongues, effective prophecy, greater interpretation of tongues, creative miracles, mighty healings, correct discerning of spirits, deeper faith, stronger revelations in the use of word of knowledge and word of wisdom. I ask this so that I will be equipped to minister to the people you guide me to each day. Direct me to the circumstances in which I can best serve You. Amen. *Anon.*

"Through the Seasons with Jesus and Mary"

One of our faithful writers, Amy Mosbacher, has written a book available from Page Publishing, described as both inspiring and reflective, opening the reader's eyes to the acceptance of God and spirituality in life. Amy says, "Were on a journey. Our destination: Heaven. The entrance fee? Paid with Jesus' blood. We are His. Our challenge? Allow ourselves to be loved by God and find our place in the ultimate love story. But will we surrender to the transforming fire of that love? If we do, we will be changed."

Consider *Through the Seasons with Jesus and Mary* a companion for your journey from someone who has been touched by the fire of God, and who wants you to know the hope and peace that faith in God brings. It encompasses all the liturgical seasons in the Church year. Amy shows how even the smallest events can be infused with the Holy Spirit.

Amy is a Catholic, a church volunteer, wife, mother, and a Charismatic prayer group leader. She lives in the Meadville, PA area. If you read this newsletter regularly, you should know that she is an excellent writer. You can buy the book at Hofmann's Church and Religious Store in Erie, and also online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon, Google Play, or Barnes and Noble.

Some names of God

By Jack Heintzel

I just found some notes I made many years ago from a teaching tape by Marilyn Hickey, then a well-known Christian teacher. I think this material should be interesting to many of our readers.

Our God is one God. But He has many facets, and I have read that the ancient Hebrews used various names for Him. He has many names because there are many ways in which He reveals Himself to us. In this article we will only cover a few of these names. By understanding Him better, we can appreciate His tremendous love for us and His plan of salvation. The better we know Him, the more we will love Him and the better we will serve Him.

First, consider the name **El**, which is basically the same as Elohim. Genesis 1:1 starts by saying, "In the beginning, God..." Here He is referred to as El, or **God** (creator). He is the covenant maker, God of might and power.

Next consider the name **Jehovah**, or Yahweh. This means **LORD**, the revealing one, the ever-existing one. Hickey says God told Moses, "I will be whatever you need." There are many versions of this name, such as: Jehovah

Rophe, my healer; Jehovah Rohi, my shepherd; Jehovah Shammah, always present; Jehovah Shalom, my peace; Jehovah Nissi, my victory; Jehovah Tsidkenu, he is my righteousness; Jehovah Jireh, my provider, or the One who sees ahead and makes provision for me. Hickey says these seven redemptive names of Jesus are all given in Psalm 23. And "seven" is the Biblical number which means completion; in other words, believers are complete in Christ.

Another common name is **Adonai**, used about 300 times in the New Testament alone. It means **master** and owner, one who gives us direction; our protector. As used in the Bible, Adonai translates as Lord, whereas Jehovah translates as LORD in Bible terms. Some Bibles use the capitalized version of Lord, which then is Jehovah in Hebrew. In Acts 9:6 when Paul sees the brilliant light which knocked him off his horse he called God "Adonai." Basically this was a revealing knowledge of God, causing Paul to give his life to his master.

The term **El Shaddai** is used 48 times in the Bible, and 31 times just in the book of Job. This

translates to **God Almighty**, who is more than enough for us. El Shaddai comes to us in situations where the natural is not enough.

In other words, our God is all we need; let's trust Him always.

The Gift

By Jean Heintzel

Heavenly Father, I thank
You for Your gift of
this day.

May I open it carefully
and savor each moment as
a precious part of this gift.

As I open it, it appears to
be a puzzle with pieces
marked "joys," "sorrows,"
"works," "burdens," "quiet
times," "busy times."

May I carefully assemble
these pieces to create a
beautiful gift to present to
You at the end of this day.

Remind me that ALL the
pieces are necessary for
this project.

I cannot discard ANY of
them, no matter how
difficult or dark they might
seem.

Help me remember that
dark colors accent or bring
out the light ones.
They are ALL necessary to
complete the puzzle, Your
gift from me.

Prayer Brunch

August 22, 2015

Held at St Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center
147 West 24th Street, Erie, PA

Enjoy: Fellowship • Brunch • Praise and Worship • Talk • Prayer for personal needs.

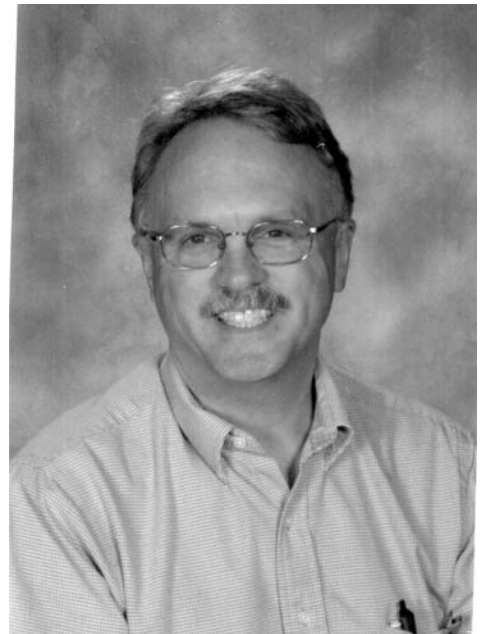
Time: 9:30 AM to Noon **Brunch fee:** \$8.00; must accompany reservation.

Sponsored by Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

August speaker: Deacon Jerry Peterson

Jerry has been an ordained permanent deacon in the Erie Diocese since 2001, and is currently assigned to St. Julia Church in Erie. He also assists with communion calls at Health South hospital, and is regularly involved with the Catholic Services ministry at the State Correctional Institution at Albion, PA. His talk is entitled "Raised with Love," and is based on Luke 1:38 and John 15:16. It will center on his family, including his uncle, Fr. Jim Peterson. He was raised by devout and holy parents, Jack and Dorothy Peterson, who instilled in him a strong Catholic faith. He has a devotion to the rosary, and is blessed with opportunities to honor Mary, our Mother.

He is a life-long resident of Erie, and attended school at Blessed Sacrament, Cathedral Prep, and Gannon University. Jerry and his wife Joan are the parents of three children, and they have three grandsons. Deacon Jerry is an elementary school teacher in the Erie School District.



Please keep the top portion for future reference

Prayer Brunch Registration
Saturday, August 22, 2015

\$8.00 _____

Deadline for registration is August 17, 2015

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone No. _____

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

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

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
website: www.wordoflifecrc.org

Office hours:
Not currently set

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.

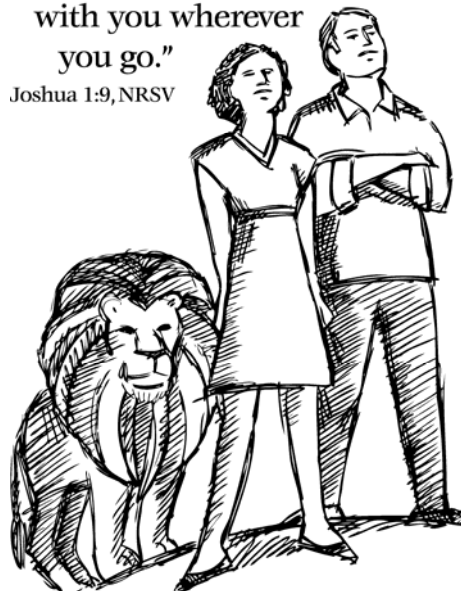
Editor: Jack Heintzel
Writers: Kathy Wilcox, Agnes Helsley,
Amy Mosbacher
Typist: Carol Mando

Volume XXIX

Issue No. 8

"Be strong and courageous...
for the LORD your God is
with you wherever
you go."

Joshua 1:9, NRSV



AUGUST 2015