



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

August 2016

Women's Day of Reflection: A Recap

By Kathy Wilcox

We were pleased to have Stacy Malesiewski as our retreat director on Saturday, June 11, 2016. This was a special day for the women who attended. Stacy presented so much food for thought and prayer that it is hard to summarize all that our Lord brought to us through her. It was definitely not a "fluffy, feel-good day."

Stacy used a visual analogy for her presentation. She took us to a garden, and then explained how we can have "victory" in the spiritual garden that is inside all of us. "When God gave you physical life at conception," she explained, "he put you inside a universe. When he gave you spiritual life at baptism he put a universe inside of you." She made the point that our soul is our spiritual garden and it is where we go to communicate with God. So we must protect our garden and must allow only good things to grow there.

We spent time reviewing the commandments, in meditation, and in examination of conscience before the Blessed Sacrament. Stacy challenged

us to rid our garden of the sins and distractions which we are hanging on to, because only "interior change in us can change the world, and we must rebuild the church one heart at a time."

Stacy is well grounded in the teachings of the church, and she based her talks on the teachings of St. Teresa of Avila and St. Francis de Sales. She encouraged us to attend daily Mass, to attend Eucharistic Adoration and to pray the rosary as often as possible. She outlined the difference between divine love, disordered love and self-love. She presented the truth that once we surrender to God his divine love will grow in our hearts, and what is on the inside of us will show on the outside.

With her examples from her personal story she led us to reflect on our own prayer life, and explained that it was her experience that when God did not seem to be answering her prayers, He taught her that His timing is triggered by her "yes" to His will. His clock stands still while he waits for our "yes."

Our goal is the center of the garden where, on the tree of life, Christ is crucified. Our sanctification will occur when we conform our will to God's will, just as Jesus did on the cross.

It was not a day for the faint of heart. But for those who heard the talk it will be a life-changing day if we heed God's call, enter the garden, encounter the love of Christ and grow in it.

Learning to Speak with God

Acquire the habit of speaking to God with familiarity and confidence---as to your dearest and most loving friend. Speak of your life, your plans, your troubles, your joys, your fears. In return, God will speak to you---not that you will hear audible words in your ears, but words that you will clearly understand in your heart.

- St. Alphonsus Liguori



Centering In

Important Dates

Please check out these dates for events you should be aware of. Ask for God's blessings on them.

August 27th – Prayer Brunch at St. Joseph / BOL Community center (see page 7 for details).

October 8th – Day of Renewal at St. Joseph / BOL Commun. Center.

October 10th to Nov. 21st – 7 Monday sessions – Life in the Spirit Seminar at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center.

Pentecost: The Birth of A New Lifestyle

By Salvatore Martinez

On the occasion of the historic presence of Pope Francis at the 37th Convocation of the Renewal at the Olympic Stadium of Rome, on June 1, 2014, the “project of new life” for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was written by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of our “ecclesial family.”

The words of the Holy Father, pronounced before 52,000 convened at the stadium and the press of the entire world, tell us how much the Pope counts on the Renewal, sharing its identity and mission. And, at the same time, they tell how demanding is the request for coherence and faithfulness to the plan of the Holy Spirit in the life of the leaders of the Renewal.

The Pontificate of Francis is both *kerygmatic* and *charismatic* as never before in the history of the Church. (Ed. note: *kerygma* is a Greek word for spreading the Gospel of Christ). Some people do not comprehend that at the heart of the Church there is a people, the Renewal, which serves the Lord and wants to make itself a gift for the world. With Pope Francis the Church is living a *kairos* of the Spirit, a favorable time, a new season of love for the person of Jesus Christ professed in a vital way. And in many, who were living a dead or dying faith, interest for the Gospel and for the Church is awakening. We cannot help but note the fact that the enthusiasm aroused by Francis is truly without precedent, so that many are crying out to a “miracle of Pentecost,” to the wonder of a faith which is returning to affirm itself with *kerygmatic* and *charismatic* flavor as at the time of the first Christian communities.

The worldwide Charismatic Renewal is on the threshold of its Golden Jubilee, and we reiterate with conviction: Renewal is needed! It is “necessary for history” that it exists, and “it serves history” as well because human history is always marked by the living presence of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is necessary that the “quality of our love for Jesus be tangible in order to invoke the Renewal as a “current of grace,” as Pope Francis has stated in the Olympic Stadium address. He called for “quality of love” among us, rather than quantity.

Therefore it is necessary that our hearts be a flowing “river” of love of the Spirit and not a “lake.” Often our hearts are artificial, represented by actions, decisions and works without love, carried out without sentiments of the heart; with prayers that do not touch the heart because they are without a soul, without praise that springs from life; closed lakes, without an “outlet” in the heart of history, in the hearts of brothers and sisters whom we are called to serve rather than those to be led and commanded.

Outside of the love of the Spirit there is no humanity, no society, no family, no group, and no community. Away from God's Love nothing makes sense.

Here is how Francis defines the Renewal:

- 1) You are born by the will of the Holy Spirit, as a current of grace in and for the Church.
- 2) The Charismatic Renewal is a great strength for proclaiming the Gospel in the joy of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Everything must be based on adoration! The foundation of the Renewal is to adore God!

The Culture of Pentecost

Addressing the Renewal of Italy in 2002, St. John Paul II asked for the spreading of a *culture of Pentecost*. Even today we feel that this mandate is alive and urgent.

The world has not yet received the universal brotherhood lesson of Pentecost. The theology that dominates Christianity still lacks the culture of

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The Heart of Evangelization

By Amy Mosbacher

Sometimes I'm amazed at how much the Lord puts up with from me. Just when I'm thinking one thing, He says, "By the way, did I tell you I need you to work on this particular virtue some more?" So God gave me a test in patience (an interaction with my daughter) which I failed miserably, which I realized even as my impatience flared through. That made me feel even worse than I did already. I prayed, "Have mercy on me, God, have mercy for in you my soul has taken refuge. In the shadow of your wings I take refuge till the storms of destruction pass by." (Ps. 57) I apologized for behaving so wretchedly. Then it happened. Halfway through the chaplet of Divine Mercy our Father's mercy and peace broke through my shame and healed my sorrow. He let me see through His eyes, and I knew I was still loved by Him. He gave me strength---and humility---to apologize to my daughter and make amends and everything is good.

I could leave it there, and go on and not mention to anyone the interaction between God and me, but then evangelization dies. Psalm 66 says "Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare what He has done for me." What happened was nothing earth-shattering, but it was important: God helped me be a better person. I could have just not gone to Him in prayer. I could have simply stewed over the inci-

dent and found some way of justifying myself. I could have held onto those feelings. Left by myself I probably would have done all those things, and I wouldn't have been a very pleasant person to be around. But God is good and He knows how desperately I need Him. However, when He has given help, our Father wants to be thanked for it. What father wouldn't?

The "telling of what God has done for me" becomes the heart of evangelization. God is good! He's done such wonderful things for me I not only want to thank Him for it, I want to tell people how much He means to me! I want them to know that my life is different, for the better, because of God. We, who know God, are blessed to have hope, and we need to let others know. So many people these days search for meaning in the material, financial or every other created thing. Perhaps there are some who really don't know God. Are we inviting them to know Him? Are we going out and proclaiming the good news as Jesus told us to, even if it's little things? If we can let people know that God is actively with us in our day-to-day lives and making a difference for us, then they will see the hope we have, and perhaps, just perhaps, they will also want to know Him. So let's ask ourselves, when was the last time we mentioned something good God has done for us?

"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to

another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds." (Psalms 145:3-6)

Cont. from P. 2

the miracle of Pentecost. Political and social systems still lack the dynamism of love seen at Pentecost. Many Christians still seem to live their existence without the Holy Spirit, a "pre-Pentecostal" existence!

For most Christians the Holy Spirit still remains unknown; very often is a stranger to our religious culture. At best, as affirmed by Pope Francis, the Holy Spirit is a *luxury prisoner* (May 9, 2016).

The culture of Pentecost calls for those "devoted to the Spirit." We need witnesses who give citizenship to the Spirit, who are a reminder of the relevance of the Spirit. The culture of Pentecost is to be lived!

Pentecost gives birth to new men and women. A new "life style" is born. A new culture is born, which is spiritual in nature. The culture of Pentecost is the definitive truth with regard to everyone, in light of the true power that God gives.

Salvatore Martinez is the first lay person to lead the Charismatic Renewal in Italy and is involved in other international organizations. He has been a conference speaker in 35 countries and has published 27 books. Note: article has been modified by the editor.

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace Church

2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM

First Wednesday of the month

EXCEPT July, August & September

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

Joan Helsley (Dick)

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.

“Whoever wishes to ascend to God must first *avoid sin*, which deforms our nature, then exercise one’s natural powers; by *praying*, to receive restoring grace; by a *good life*, to receive purifying justice; by *meditating*, to receive illuminating knowledge; and by *contemplating*, to receive perfecting wisdom.”

- St. Bonaventure

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

2nd 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 7:00 PM

T.A. Walkiewicz 833-9717



We Can All Be Tabithas

By Jack Heintzel

“Whether extraordinary or simple and humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men, and to the needs of the world.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 799

In his book *Moved by the Spirit*, Kevin Perrotta writes about what was happening in the early church as related in Acts 9:36-42. At Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (also called Dorcas) who was full of good works and acts of charity and deeply loved. But she fell sick and died. The other disciples, deeply concerned about the death of Tabitha, heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda. They sent men to find him, and they entreated him to come without delay. Peter came immediately. They took him to the upper room where Tabitha lay. Peter knelt down and prayed, turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, rise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. When this became known throughout all Joppa, many believed in the Lord.

True, God did an amazing thing in bringing Tabitha back to life, but Perrotta says that on most days of the week we may get more benefit from meditating on the Spirit’s less conspicuous ways of acting in our lives. The Holy Spirit is *constantly* involved in the type of

activity we hear about Tabitha doing briefly in Acts 9:36---caring about people in need. So while we are encouraged by Peter, traveling from one community to another working miracles in God’s power, we get a complementary picture of Tabitha. She apparently spent her time at home, alleviating the distress of her impoverished neighbors. Her activities are not miraculous, but they are just as much works of the Spirit as the healings performed by Peter. Through her, people would experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Luke calls Tabitha a “disciple.” This, he rates her alongside Jesus’ more prominent disciples such as Peter, John, and James. This is high praise. But she was not the type of disciple who followed Jesus along the roads of Palestine, going from place to place evangelizing. She was a stay-at-home disciple. But through Tabitha, as much as through Peter, the Church was being “built up” and was “walking in the fear of the Lord” and “multiplied” (Acts 9:31). But the Spirit’s action in Tabitha is so hidden in the ordinary that we are in danger of not even noticing it.

And yet she has been *canonized* by the Church. Perrotta brings our attention to this fact: St. Tabitha has a feast day on the calendars of the Church in both the West and the East. So she has certainly been recognized by the Church as a valuable historical figure.

The different kinds of spiritual activity we see here are not in conflict. They go to-

gether. In 1 Corinthians 12:28 St. Paul says the Spirit gives the Church both “healers” and “helpers.” We might see ourselves as both, depending on circumstances. You and I, if we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, have power to be healers. And we can certainly be helpers, as God calls. Whenever He calls us to be helpers we should be Tabithas. And we should be ready to act in miraculous ways also if needed. After all, we are the Body of Christ, ready and able to do whatever our Lord calls us to do, using whatever charisms are needed at the time.

Cleverness

A man and his wife were checking out of a motel. They discovered the manager had charged them for a fresh basket of fruit put in the room every day. The man said, “How can you charge us for fresh fruit when we never ate any fruit from any basket any day?”

The manager said, “It’s not my fault you didn’t eat it. It was there.”

So the man took the bill and subtracted \$150 from it. The manager said, “What in the world are you doing?”

The man said, “I am charging you \$50 a day for kissing my wife.”

The manager said, “I didn’t kiss your wife.”

The husband said, “That’s not my fault. She was there.”

Larry Moyer

Wonder

The world is not lacking in wonders, but in a sense of wonder. – G. K Chesterton

Fighting Evil – Just Do It!

By Kathy Wilcox

It is said that the only difference between a hero and a coward is that the hero acts even though he is afraid. Can we compare a Christian and a non-believer? There are many, many differences but the most significant one is that as a believer, I have received the Holy Spirit and His gifts and fruits. Thus I have within me an arsenal of weapons to use to fight evil. Before I go to battle, I have protection as well. I can put on the “Armor of God” listed in the bible: the Helmet of Salvation, the Shield of Faith, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Belt of Truth and the Sword of the Spirit. I can also pray the “Taking Authority Prayer” and ask Jesus to cover me with His precious blood. I can ask St. Michael the Archangel to defend me in battle, and ask Mary our Mother to provide her protection.

Now that I am ready to go to war against evil, I also need to remember that I do not have to go to a battle field, or to pick up a gun and become a vigilante. Jesus is my creator, and had a plan for me before I was born. He knew who my parents would be, and where I would live. He wants me to bloom where He planted me. I am called, as we all are, to bring the power of God into the space I occupy. I can do that by praying the “Taking Authority Prayer” and with it, claim Jesus’ authority over

Satan and his minions. I can bring God’s protection with this prayer to myself and those around me. Every moment of every day, I have opportunities to pray and intercede for my family, my friends, my community and the world. Each day that other people come into contact with me I need to reach out to them with God’s love, and provide whatever God is prompting me to give them. I can volunteer to help others, whether it be physically, emotionally, spiritually or all three. Each time God gives me an opportunity, I need to heed and act.

Sometimes what God is asking me to do will make me uncomfortable or can seem foolish. Mother Angelica tells her story in the little book, “Mother Angelica’s Answer’s, not Promises.” She got the idea while at prayer that she should go down south and start a monastery. With her Mother Superior’s blessing, she left the convent in Ohio and traveled to Birmingham, Alabama where only 2% of the population was Catholic. She went on to build the monastery, and start the only Catholic TV broadcast company in the world. She listened and stepped out in faith and God provided.

So what are we all waiting for? For example, is God calling me to love and pray for a family member who says he is an atheist? Is he calling me to organize a “Life in the Spirit Seminar” in my parish? Or to visit the dying and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with them? Is God calling me into

prison ministry? Or to start a ministry for the homeless? Whatever God places in your heart, it really gets down to one thing: each of us needs to be a hero, and step out of our comfort zone, and let God use US to overcome evil. He needs US to bring His power and love into the world... today!

Gratitude

Mother Teresa told this story at the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994:

One evening we went out, and we picked up four people from the street. One of them was in a most terrible condition. I told the sisters, “You take care of the other three; I will take care the one who looks the worst.” So I did for her all that my love could do. I put her in bed, and there was such a beautiful smile on her face. She took hold of my hand as she said two words only: “Thank you.” Then she died.

I could not help but examine my conscience before her. *What would I say if I were in her place?* My answer was very simple. I would have tried to draw a little attention to myself. I would have said, “I am hungry. I am dying I am in pain,” or something. But she gave me much more; she gave me her grateful love. And she died with a smile on her face.

Gratitude brings a smile and becomes a gift.



forgiveness

Prayer Brunch

Saturday, August 27, 2016

9:30 am — Noon

Being held at the St. Joseph Community Center

147 W 24th Street, Erie, PA 16502

Sponsored by the Word of Life Center, Erie PA



GUEST SPEAKER

Mother and Author of "The Story of My Life: A Mother's Forgiveness",

BETTY FERGUSON, has been living forgiveness since her 16-year-old daughter Debbie Gama was murdered in 1975. Ferguson works as an advocate for crime victims and says forgiving her oldest daughter's killer has been the best thing for her heart. *"I learned that forgiveness would set me free. I didn't want to stay mad at my daughter's killer forever because it hurt me."*

Registration:

Prayer Brunch— Saturday, August 27, 2016

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Monday, August 22, 1016

Make Checks Payable to Word of Life Center

Mail to: Word of Life Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie PA 16514

Name:	_____	\$8.50 per person
Address:	_____	Teens and Older
City/State/Zip:	_____	Men and Women
Phone #:	_____	

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*my soul waits for
the LORD more than
those who watch
for the morning.*

Psalm 130:6

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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.

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