



Reflections

Volume XXXI
Issue No. 7

Word Of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

August 2017

WORSHIP: THE KEY TO RIVAL By Jack Heintzel

“You are the God who performs miracles.”

Psalm 77:14a

As I continue to pray about the Charismatic Renewal in the Erie Diocese, I can't help but think that we need revival. Maybe you have had the same thought. It seems that we need God to “shake us up” so that He can do all the works that He wants to do through us. The second part of Psalm 77:14 says

“you display Your power among the peoples.”

What would it take for God to act in power in *our* midst?

Dick Eastman, in the *Every Home for Christ* newsletter, provides help for us. In his article *Worship Enlists God: Fire from Heaven*, he states that true revival is always the heart's cry for any committed believer. He quotes evangelist A. W. Tozer as follows: “*Whenever the church has come out of her lethargy, rising from her sleep and into the tides of revival, always the worshippers were in back of it.*”

Worship, says Eastman, is central to every revival. Again, he quotes Tozer, “*In my study and observations, a revival generally results in sudden bestowment of a spirit of worship. This is not the result of engineering or manipulations. It is something God bestows on people hungering and thirsting for Him. With this spiritual renewing will come a blessed spirit of loving worship.*”

Let's ask ourselves if we have a hunger and thirst for God, and a real desire to see Him act in us. It makes sense to believe that worship not only helps bring revival and sustains it, but also opens the heavens for more of God. As we see God act, worship increases and revival grows. This results in an even greater increase in our awareness of Him, which is the essence of revival.

Intercessory worship can release something of God's glory into circumstances that otherwise would seem hopeless. Let us consider how we can get into worship-saturated intercession, enlisting the fullness of God to help us in our situation.

Worship provides our primary means to mobilize and release His resources. A full revelation of Jesus Christ can transform us. The lead Scripture says we have a God who does miracles. How do we tap into His power? We can do it through worshipful intercession. Psalm 77:11-12 gives us an idea of what we can do: remember what God has already done in our midst. The psalmist says:

“I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember Your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all Your works and consider all Your mighty deeds.”

God can and will act if we are serious about seeking His help; we can ask God to give us a deep spirit of worship. Spiritual warfare may also be involved, and our warfare is victorious only if God is in it. If we are serious in enlisting God's intervention, it is possible for His fire to come down from heaven. Let the fire fall! Come, Lord Jesus!

Important Dates

July 20-23rd
Pittsburgh Charismatic
Conference

August 1
Healing Mass, Holy Rosary Church,
Son of God Prayer Group - 6:30 pm

August 26th
Prayer Brunch at St. Joseph/Bread
of Life Community Center at 9:30
am (pg. 7)

August 12th
Saturday Night Praise Fest
St. Joseph/Bread of Life
Community Center
6:00 - 8:00 pm (pg. 2)

August 31st
Alpha Course starts
St. Joseph/Bread of Life
Community Center (pg. 6)

September 8-9th
Life in the Spirit seminar in
Sheffield, PA.
Contact Lil Herbstritt (pg. 6)

October 21st
Day of Renewal
Save the date.
More info coming later.

TALKING WITH GOD by: Mary Pat Ringhand

I recently finished a book recommended to me some time ago. It's called *"The Shack"* by William P. Young. Few books really teach me about the true love of God as much as this one did. The main character, "Mac," lost his young daughter in a most horrific way, and like most of us might, went into reclusion within himself. I was thinking of what I could have done differently, and wondering if the people close to him could have done something to help. And still more, would I be wondering where God was in all this tragedy.

After some time of just existing, Mac is invited in a most unusual way to have a visit with a stranger in the place where he last knew his daughter to be. Out of pure curiosity, he goes there to meet this stranger and finds out he can find God in the most peculiar places. Not just the Father, but all three persons in the Trinity. He is able to talk to God, ask Him all the questions he has had on his mind ever since the "bad thing" happened. He is allowed to show his anger, his pain, and his sorrow to God. When bad things happen to us, do

we really open our mouth and tell God how we feel? Or are we afraid that a living, totally loving God might punish us for having feelings? Do we pray with a quiet demeanor, just asking God to help us get rid of the pain? What if we had a shack, a forest, or a room in the basement where we could go and talk out loud to God? After all, when we forgive, can't we say out loud - "I forgive...I forgive...I forgive." Maybe the first hundred times or so you don't really feel the forgiveness coming out, but by voicing it, it does finally come to fruition. This was Mac's problem. He could not bring himself to forgive, thereby keeping the pain in his heart and letting "the bad" person go on scott free.

I am working on a plan to talk to God out loud, mostly for serious things, and then be still and listen for his responses. I recommend that you read this book; although it is fiction, the writer has some colorful descriptions of God and his answers for Mac. The whole thing might or might not be a dream. That's for the reader to discern.



Saturday Night Praise Fest

August 12, 2017 6:00—8:00 pm

St. Joseph Community Center
147 W 24th Street, Erie, PA 16502
Sponsored by the Word of Life Center, Erie PA

*Come and join us for an evening of fellowship,
prayer, and worshipping our Lord with Worship
Leader Jaci Phillips-Sabol and friends.*

POUSTINIA—A GETAWAY RETREAT by: Kathy Wilcox

Catherine Doherty was a Roman Catholic social worker and foundress of the Madonna House Apostolate. I was recently introduced to Catherine in an article written by Fr. Terry Donahue in the *Companions of the Cross* magazine. Of her many books, “*Poustinia*” (the Russian word for “desert”) is well read, especially for those who encourage a “getting away from it all” retreat. As read, I realized that summertime is that period of the year when we all should “get away from it all”, whether children from school and adults from workplace, and all of us from the distractions of the world.

Why get away? Catherine focuses on the spiritual growth that can occur. She encourages us to take our Bible, bread and water, and find a quiet place. This could be a cabin in the woods, a tent by a lake, or any place where we can close the door. Then we can turn off the TV and phone and be silent for at least 24 hours. During that time, we should fast, atone for our sins, and pray for ourselves, mankind, and peace. “It is ok,” she calms the fearful, to “just be yourself, no one knows you better than God,” so let the Spirit lead you. It is ok to nap, go for a walk, or just relax.

The fruits are amazing. “Silence is a suspension bridge that a soul in love with God builds to cross the darkness of its own mind. It is the beginning of a divine courtship that will end in

the loving silence of final union with the Beloved.” (from *Poustinia*).

Our own personal fears often cause us to be uncomfortable in our own skin, so we use distractions to run away. In the silence, we have nowhere else to turn to but to God. When we invite God into our heart in the silence, He will help us confront ourselves intimately and fill the dark places with His love. This interior space is now His dwelling place in our heart, and we can always go there, wherever we are; it becomes our “go to place” no matter what is going on around us. Catherine calls this “the Poustinia of the heart.”

If you are not ready for an intense spiritual retreat, you can start slowly and just get away from the world for a weekend, without TV and internet. Take your family hiking, fishing, camping, or just sit by the water. Being near to the beauty of the world is healing to our bodies as well as our souls. Even those who do not believe in God are now coming to realize the healing, both physically and emotionally, that occurs when we get away from the intense noise, distractions and pressures we now live with. You will find that whether you choose a “Poustinia retreat” or a just cabin in the woods, God is there waiting for you. And in the silence, you will hear His voice.

“I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her” (Hosea 2:14).

Delight in the Lord

By Julie Oldach

Delight in me, my child,
let me touch your life.
Worldly cares will flee,
as well as all the strife.

I want to be your joy
and make sadness disappear,
And fill you with my peace
so you will have no fear.

Come walk with me today,
talk to me and share
The things you need and want,
your burdens I will bear.

Understand how much I care,
feel my love for you.
I cherish moments that you
give, though they are few.

Open wide your heart to me,
love me with all your might.
Love me every moment, in the
depths as well as heights.

Have a thankful heart,
sing praises constantly.
Know your faithful God,
delight in me and be free.

For whom the Son sets free,
is free---indeed is free!
You are very special,
remember, you belong to me.

HEALING MASS

Our Lady of Peace Church
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM
Cancelled for July & August

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

MEMORIALS

In memory of:

Rick Petruso
Rose Schafer
Rose Schafer
George Vlahos

Presented to:

Pete Petruso
Kathie Iarussi
Kathie Iarussi
Columbia Vlahos

Requested by:

T.A. Walkiewicz
Judi Janke
T.A. Walkiewicz
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.

“Divine Jesus, by my love I want to make you rejoice. I accept
the trials of this exile to delight you and to console your heart.
But change all my works to love, O my Beloved Savior. It's your
love, Jesus, that I crave; it is your love that has to transform me.
Put in my heart your consuming flame.”

St. Therese of Lisieux

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

† 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

† 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

† 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 (814) 836-4165

St. Boniface PG

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

† FRIDAY:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting
Call for location 1:00 PM
T.A. Walkiewicz (814) 833-9717



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

AVAILABILITY By Amy Mosbacher

***“One of them, a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, from the city of Thyatira, a worshiper of God, listened, and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying.”
(Acts 16:14)***

Look at all the events that transpired because Lydia listened! She was open to learning about Jesus, invited Paul to stay, and a thriving church was formed at Phillippi. All because she made herself available to be used by God.

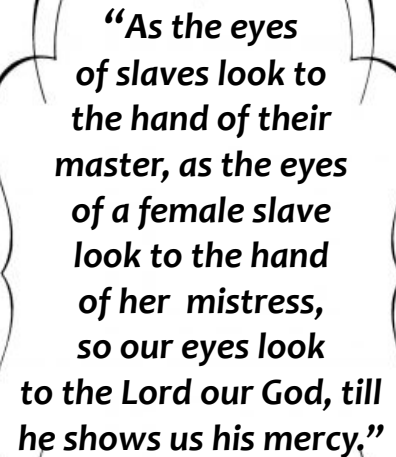
How often can we say that we're available for whatever God wants of us? It doesn't have to be for big things; even being available for God to respond in prayer takes effort. What do I mean? First, we have to take time to pray. Second, when we're praying, we have to leave room for the Lord to talk. So often my prayer ends up as communicating to God my wishes, things I want to have happen or think I need. Even in the Liturgy of the Hours there are brief periods of silence built in, but so many skip those over. Reciting the psalms is beautiful, but how many of us rush off when it's done? Kind of like having a one-sided phone conversation where we do all the talking and then hang up before the other person can respond. Take time in prayer to let God talk, too.

Recently I was in the middle of putting up bulletin boards at the

church, when suddenly I thought I should kneel down and pray. Since I was alone in the church, I prayed out loud in tongues, praising God. Earlier in a prayer group we'd spoken about the Holy Spirit "interceding in inexpressible groanings." (Rom. 8:26) So in the middle of feeling rather joyful and glorifying God, suddenly I felt this huge weight settle on me and, without my intending it, my tongues changed to those "inexpressible groanings." The tears flowed and I felt like I was interceding for the whole world, especially those who didn't know God and in reparation for sins. I was rather detached from the whole process, in my mind thinking, Wow, this is really interesting. It wasn't how I intended to pray right then. God had definitely taken over for whatever His purpose was. But what if I hadn't taken that 5 minutes to pray? Perhaps whatever our Father needed at that moment wouldn't have happened.

God limited the work He could do among us by our willingness to work with Him (see Mk 6:5-6). He can work miracles, but He might want our faith operating and for us to physically speak to make that miracle happen. He can heal, but He uses our prayers and our laying on of hands to work that healing. Perhaps He gives a word of comfort for someone, but if we don't have the courage to speak it that person can't hear God's encouragement. God's mercy is shown through us, but if we don't respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, how can He work? People wonder why God doesn't intervene more

in the world. Maybe it's because there are so few who makes themselves available to carry out His work. Let's stop and ask our Lord, "What can I do to help?" and then wait.



“As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy.”

Psalms 123:2

Healing Mass

Sponsored by:
The Son of God Prayer Group

Tuesday, August 1, 2017
Holy Rosary Church
6:30 PM

Presided by:
Rev. David Poulson

doors open at 6:30 pm for
“brick wall” petitions
to be posted. These will be
prayed over during Mass.

Call 823-3968 for additional
information.

Alpha Series

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each week looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Each session will include a simple meal, praise & worship, an informative talk, small group discussion, and prayer. Most sessions will be held on Thursday evenings. There will be one Saturday session.

Thursdays 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

August 31st, September 9, 14, 21, 28
October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 16, 30

Saturday - October 28

Being Held at: St. Joseph Community Center,
147 W 24th Street, Erie, PA 16502

*Sponsored by St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life
and The Word of Life Center, Erie PA*

For additional information: Contact T.A. Walkiewicz, (814) 833-9717 or (814) 452-2982

Registration: Alpha—Multiple Sessions

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Monday, August 28, 1017

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

Sessions are free of charge, Reservations are appreciated

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone #:

the Gift

a life in the Spirit Course

An inspiring and practical series aimed at helping us encounter the Holy Spirit and empower us to share our faith.

The six sessions cover:

The Father's Loving Plan
The Joy of the Gospel
The Gift of the Spirit
Unwrapping God's Gift
Encountering God's Spirit
Living in the Spirit

Endorsed by Pope Francis : *"The Holy Father, Pope Francis, wishes to convey his good wishes and prayers for a successful and inspiring launch of The Gift – A Life in the Spirit Resource."*
– February 2015

Friday, Sept, 8, 2017 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
(bring your own lunch, drinks provided)

St. Paul Center, next to St. Anthony Church
7222 Rt. 6, Sheffield, PA 16347

To register for this course, please call
Lil Herbstritt (814) 723-4222 or
Email: hrparishoffice2@atlanticbbn.net

There is no charge for this course series
Registration is greatly appreciated

Amen, Amen I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies it produces much fruit.

John 12:24

Prayer Brunch

Saturday, August 26, 2017
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



MARGARET FREZZA, is a cradle Catholic whose family influence of Polish descent started her on her faith journey. At college age she met a man who converted to a Pentecostal faith. His zeal challenged her. Wisdom from her dad keep her rooted in her Catholic heritage. As part of a summer Catholic group, they prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit which led her to seek out Catholic groups who were on fire for God. Margaret was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. She is married and has five children. She is involved with Faith Formation of Religious Education, Deacon Wives, Vacation Bible School, Eucharistic Minister, Bible Studies and Lector.

Registration: Prayer Brunch— Saturday, August 26, 2017

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Monday, August 21, 2017

Make Checks Payable to Word of Life Center

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

\$8.50 per person
Teens and Older
Men and Women

Our God Reigns Prayer Group Comes to an End

By Jeanne Marie Ryan and Arlene Chaney
(original prayer group members)

In the spring of 1989 a "Life in the Spirit Seminar" was held at Our Lady of Peace Church. This was the first time this type of seminar was held in an Erie parish. Approximately 75 people attended. In April of 1989 "Our God Reigns Prayer Group" was formed. This was a Catholic charismatic prayer group to which all God's people were welcomed. As a Catholic group, we used teachings and/or readings which were Christian-Bible-based with reference to Catholic traditions. As a charismatic group, the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12) were manifested. The prayer group met each Wednesday evening for almost 23 years with a healing Mass held the first Wednesday

of each month. Mass has continued until June 2017. We were extremely blessed many years ago when Selah Praise Band graciously accepted our invitation to provide the music for Mass.

The prayer group has had many participants—some short-term and some long-term. We have sponsored several Life in the Spirit seminars, a Prayer of Jabez series, and a number of other events. We have had at least two prayer groups form from our group. After much prayer, and in consideration of difficulties scheduling priests and decreased attendance at Mass, we are officially disbanding Our God Reigns Prayer Group and ending the First Wednesday healing Masses. We wish to thank all of our faithful priests, regular attendees, and especially Selah for making these many Masses possible. We pray that in all things — "Our God Reigns."

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WORD OF LIFE

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center
429 East Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA 16514



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Prayer

*A man stands tallest
when he's on his knees*



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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.

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