



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

December 2012

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

Let us begin again

By Amy Mosbacher

This simple quote attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, “Let us begin again, for until now we have done nothing,” heralds the wonderful opportunity we are given with the coming of Advent. At a time of year when life is fading from the world around us and the darker days of winter approach, the Church begins her new year. What is Advent, other than a time of hope? It is the hope of what God promised: the coming of the Messiah and therefore the hope we’ve been given in Him. It is the possibility of starting over, of correcting and learning from past mistakes. It is a time of new beginnings, to try to live up to our goals if we failed past expectations.

Over and over again Our Lady calls us to prayer and recommitting ourselves to a life of faith. We shouldn’t worry if we haven’t done as well as we would’ve liked before. Every minute we spend worrying steals away time from the present when we could be trying to improve our efforts. Let us instead try to imitate Our Lady in what she was joyfully anticipating: the birth of her Son. Mary wasn’t idle while she was waiting; she would have been preparing swaddling clothes

and perhaps weaving a blanket or two. Maybe Joseph made a crib or was carving a toy of sorts for the baby to hold. We, too, can prepare for Jesus’ coming. Not only should we pray and read the Scriptures, but we ought to prepare our external life as well. If we prepare our homes, why not ourselves? Each of us knows what we have to do, whether it be cutting back from gossip or doing an act of charity or taking a moment of quiet in our day.



Think of the joy Mary and Joseph had when they cradled Jesus in their arms, knowing they looked on the face of their God,

and that he had come willingly into their lives. Jesus is more than happy to come into our lives and to rest contentedly in our hearts – if we invite him. He won’t look at our past mistakes and be aloof and say, “Oh no, I could never come here, you did this or that...” Jesus looks at the now and says, “Yes, I will come to live in your heart and love you, and it will be you and I together.” All we have to do is ask.

Think of this as we travel through Advent slowly lighting the candles on the wreath, each one in anticipation of the new birth of Jesus in our lives. Think of the hope we have been given in that it’s never too late to ask him to come into our hearts. Those who already have a good relationship with him could renew their efforts. If we’re content in our relationship then we’re not growing. He is coming to us. Are we ready? If we feel we are far from him then we can, without worry or despair, take hope in this new season and say, “Let us begin again...”

Centering in

By Liz Geary

- **Pledge appeal**

With this December issue of *Reflections*, you received your opportunity to begin or continue your financial support of the Word of Life Center through the annual appeal. For 2013, I would urge you to use this pledge drive as a method of planned giving. Although any financial donation is certainly appreciated, using the pledge form for planned giving allows the Center to better budget income vs. expenditures. We are budgeting \$20,000 from the annual appeal for the 2013 budget. I would ask you to please pray about planned giving to the Word of Life Center, and to ask the Lord to be in control of your finances as well as the Center's finances.

Your generous response to this appeal is vitally important to the financial stability of the Center. Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated. Thank you, and may God richly bless you for all that you do for the ministry of the Center.

- **Lending library**

We have an addition to the Center's lending library. You can now borrow *Intercessory*

Prayer, How God Can Use Your Prayers to Move Heaven and Earth by Dutch Sheets. We only have one copy, so please contact the Center quickly to borrow this new addition!

- **Newsletter support**

It's not too late to send in your support for the 2013 newsletter. You will find a request for the *Reflections* subscription support at the bottom of this page. I would ask you to please return it with a contribution in support of this vital ministry. *Reflections* editions are delivered to well over 250 people who need to hear the message of our Lord and Savior. *Reflections* editions are also the Center's main form of communication regarding charismatic events and prayer groups in the Erie Diocese. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

- **Prayer Brunch**

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the final prayer brunch for 2012.

Deacon John Mang OSF and his wife Tammie gave a wonderful talk. A special "thank you" to those who helped with organizing set-up on Friday night and clean-up on Saturday. I am

truly in your debt and know that the brunches would not happen without your dedication and hard work. If anyone is interested in being part of the planning or set-up committees for the brunches, please contact the Center directly so that you can get involved! The next prayer brunch is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2013, at St. Joe's/BOL Community Center. Hope to see you there!

- **Merry Christmas**

The staff at the Word of Life Center would like to take this time to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy and Blessed New Year. May the peace of the newborn baby Jesus make a home in your heart.

- **The Christmas Heart**

"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost 2,000 years ... underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart." – G. Adams

Newsletter Support for 2012

Name _____ Phone _____

() Enclosed is my contribution to
Support the cost of the newsletter
\$10 () \$20 () Other \$ ____

Address _____

() I can't afford anything now. Please
continue to send the newsletter

City/State/Zip _____

(include last 4 digits)

() Please remove my name from
your mailing list.

E-mail Address _____

Send to: Word of Life Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie PA 16504-0397

Summary of the 2012 Charismatic Conference

By Jack Heintzel

Our Charismatic Conference was held on October 12-13, 2012, with Fr. Robert Franco as our speaker. The theme was *Intercessory Prayer: Clothed With Power from On High*. Fr. Franco came to us from the Cleveland area, where he is the bishop's delegate to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He has long been involved with an international brotherhood of priests called the Fraternity of Priests. In that group, he has learned much about intercession; and while in Erie, he shared some of his experience with us.

He characterized intercession in the Holy Spirit as taking on the concerns of another person or cause. He reminded us that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:4-9). Priests have a special call and grace for intercession. With God being squeezed out of our culture, there is a special need for intercession these days. We must intercede with Godly power as part of our priestly call.

Here are some suggestions Fr. Franco made about intercession:

- Pray for the Pope and the Church often. Try using the Liturgy of the Hours, which is intercession for the whole Church. Pray for the New Evangelization.

- Pray for reparation of sins in the world.

- Take time to pray every day and do spiritual reading.

- Come with the power of the Holy Spirit against the bad things that are happening in our life and community.

- It is good to intercede at Mass, being attentive and lifting up needs.

- Intercede with the rosary and the chaplet of mercy.

- For personal intentions, remember that many of our intentions may need prayer for a long time; we need perseverance to do this.

- Be ready to make personal sacrifices in order to pray and intercede; be a living sacrifice.

We were challenged to become steady and strong intercessors. The Body of Christ needs our service. Let us ask God to help us persevere in intercession.

Prophecies from the 2012 Charismatic Conference

From June Adam:

"My beloved children. I want you to know how precious to me is the time we spend together. As you speak to me, know that my ears hear you, my eyes see you, and my heart rejoices as the words flow from you. The sweet aroma of your breath lingers like incense around my throne.

Your lips whisper to me the longings of your heart. As you cast your prayers and your cares upon me, I hold them in the palm of my hand. I press them to my heart. I will answer your prayers in my way and in my time. My will is what your heart must desire. You see, my child, my power is given to you. With that power, you can move the mountain, heal the lame, give sight to the blind, and cast out demons. In the name of my Son, there is power. Therefore, go forth in my love with the precious and powerful name of my Son."

From Pat Dimperio:

"My children, I have created you and I have called you by name. I loved you before you were born, when you were in your mother's womb. I looked at you; I accepted you and I approved you. I am pleased that you have come to me. I am always right by your side to help you. Continue to acknowledge me. Take my hand and I will lead you on and help you to stand. Trust in me and my word to you."

From T.A. Walkiewicz:

"My people, I am the same yesterday, today and forever. I am in the future so you have no need to fear it. Just pray and give me everything that is in your fearful, anxious heart. I will heal that broken heart and replace it with a rejoicing heart, because your hope, your trust, is in me – only in me."

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 West 38th St. 7:30pm
Wednesday December 5

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

Rita Clacher
“ “
“ “
Irene Swanson
“ “
“ “
Agnes Kolsky
Sally Dwyer
Georgia Fiolek
Patty Terwillinger

Requested by

Shirley Ireland
Norman & Barbara Schlosser
Carol Mando
Ed & Agnes Helsley
T.A. & Chet Walkiewicz
Carol Mando
Sr. Marie Celeste
“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “

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.

A little child, a shining star,
a stable rude, the door ajar.
Yet in that place so crude, forlorn,
the Hope of all the world was born.
—Author unknown

All Scripture quotes in this newsletter are from the New International Version unless noted otherwise

† Sunday

Shalom in Jesus Prayer Group

In home 6:30PM
Rick Kenawell (814) 375-0328
DuBois, PA
Dec. 2,9,16,23,30

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
Dec. 2,9,16,23,30

† 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
Dec. 3,10,17

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
Dec. 3,10,17
(Except major holidays)

PRAYER GROUPS

River of Life PG

2nd & 4th Monday evenings
7:00PM
St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA
Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104
Dec. 10

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Joe Kirsch 459-7100
Dec. 4,11,18

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
Dec. 4,11,18

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
Dec 5,12,19,26

† Thursday:

**St. Joseph Church/ Bread of Life
Prayer Meeting** 7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connelly 866-0505
Dec. 6,13,20,27 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
Bill Adam 899-9222
Dec. 6,13,20,27

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Administration Bldg.
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
Dec. 13

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
Dec. 7,14,21,28



A Christmas remembered

by Agnes Helsley

Merry Christmas! This greeting brings to mind Christmas Mass in a warm, cozy church with an outstanding choir (such as Selah) singing all of our favorite carols. Large snowflakes falling gently from a starlit sky and beautifully decorated trees with presents piled underneath the branches are part of the picture. And, oh yes, the slight jingle of sleigh-bells as Santa glides off the roof on a sleigh pulled by eight famous reindeer.

For many of us this is representative of a typical Christmas. However, I am reminded of a different Christmas experienced by my daughter Edie, her husband and their young son many years ago. My son-in-law was in the Air Force, just back from an overseas deployment. He was newly assigned to a base in Texas and their family arrived there just before Christmas. My daughter and grandson had lived with my husband and me during the overseas assignment. Now they were away from all that was familiar at holiday time.

The trip had been exhausting; they were in temporary quarters and feeling very alone. That became the most memorable Christmas for my daughter. She told me that she could identify with the long ago travelers on that first Christmas. She focused on the tired couple

traveling a great distance, Mary's only transportation (a donkey), and the lack of comfortable shelter. As she did this, Edie was caught up in the story of the first Christmas, the awesome story of a young couple far from home and about to experience the birth of a child.

Stripped of the trappings of a traditional celebration of the holiday, she had a once in a lifetime sense of real appreciation for the gift given. Edie more fully entered into the significance and the wonder of the entrance of a tiny Baby destined to die for sinful mankind.



Diocesan liason's comments

by Mike Vehec

As chairman of the board of directors of the Word of Life Renewal Center, and as diocesan liaison, I would like to make a few comments about the Center. Our mission has always been to do the work that God has called us to – preaching the gospel of Jesus and proclaiming his salvation to the world.

Our ability to do that as the Word of Life Center depends on your support. I thank all of you for your past support. The Center, like all non-profit organizations, has had a tough financial year. With this newsletter you have received a pledge packet for the coming year. Liz Geary, in her "Centering In" page has summed up the need very well, and I see no need to repeat that.

The Diocese has been generous to us by providing an office at St. Mark's Catholic Center, the use of the building, and \$2,750 in cash subsidy. But in addition, we depend on your gifts and pledges. Since tax time is approaching, I urge you to consider a year-end gift, and being as generous as possible in your pledge for the coming year. As the readings of November 11th reflect, "God blesses the generous giver." God continues to bless others through you. Thank you again for your support.

Notes from the November Prayer Brunch

By Jack Heintzel

On November 3rd we were pleased to hear a fine presentation by Deacon John Mang, OSF and his wife Tammie. They both serve at Our Lady of Peace parish in Erie, and gave a joint presentation to a receptive group. They focused on the theme of the Holy Spirit as a sacred companion.

Deacon John is a convert to the Catholic faith, having been raised in a Protestant denomination. He told how, even as a Protestant youth, he felt a strong Eucharistic awareness. In the military he had learned about Zen Buddhism from a friend, and tried that kind of meditation for a while. After leaving the military he studied to become a minister, and strongly resisted Catholicism. He did, however, attend Mass a few times and was so touched by the Eucharist he decided to become a Catholic. In 2008 he was ordained as a permanent deacon.

Tammie said she is a cradle Catholic and has always been faithful to attending Mass. But overall her participation in church life was not strong. She said that after meeting John, his enthusiasm sparked a deepening of her faith.

Their presentation was based partly on Psalm 73:24, which basically says "With your counsel you guide me." Another pertinent Scripture is Proverbs 4:11, which says "On the way of wisdom I direct you." One way we can be guided is through the use of a spiritual director, and also by journaling as we pray. When Deacon John began his deaconate training, both he and Tammie learned about spiritual direction, and they have been helped greatly by this experience. They found that they were better able to help one another draw closer to God.

They stressed that spiritual direction is not counseling and is not dependency on another person. It helps a person to discern God's will. They encouraged everyone to consider seeking a spiritual director who is right for them.

They challenged all of us to help build the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit, which is an ongoing call. We in the Renewal are reminded to re-read Acts Chapter 2, which describes the empowerment of the early disciples. We are also empowered, and are called to be the image of Christ, to reflect his love, and to spread his word to others. We should use the Charismatic gifts, which are God's grace for us. I pray that all of us will heed this call to have our faith deepened and our mission enhanced.

What's missing

When shopping for gifts became too difficult, an elderly man decided to just send checks to relatives. In his Christmas cards, mailed early, he wrote, "Buy your own present!"

After the holiday, the man noticed he'd received few cards in return. Puzzled, he went into his study, intending to write to a few relatives and ask what had happened. As he cleared his cluttered desk, the horrified man found the answer. Under a stack of papers were the checks he'd forgotten to enclose with his cards!

The lesson? Don't be in such a hurry to give gifts that you inadvertently leave out what's most important. Without the message of Jesus and his birth, the earthly trappings of Christmas are empty indeed.



**May the Peace of that first Christmas
remain in your hearts
this Christmas and throughout the New Year**

Word of Life Center staff

Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Kathy Wilcox

Many tourists visiting Mexico travel to one of the Aztec ruins. If they knew what took place at these sites, they may not be interested. Historians tell us that in the early 1500s the Aztecs, under Montezuma, were brutal dictators, exercising a reign of terror over all other Indian tribes. The Aztecs believed that the gods required human blood to subsist, so the priests sacrificed thousands of living humans every year. They demanded high taxes and even practiced cannibalism. It is estimated that over 80,000 people a year were brutally slain, as many as 20,000 at one single festival during that period.

The Spanish, led by Cortez, arrived in 1521 and were successful in defeating Montezuma. They worked to bring civility and Catholicism to the people. Conversions were difficult, however, due to the extremes of the pagan culture and the language barrier. As many as 50 different dialects were spoken in the region.

Then our Lord sent his Mother. She found a pure heart in Juan Diego, a recently converted native. At dawn on December 9th, 1531 he was walking to Tlatelolco to attend catechism class and Mass. As he was passing Tepeyac Hill, he saw a brilliant light on the summit and heard music. When he

stopped, he heard a feminine voice asking him to ascend. When he reached the top, he saw the Blessed Virgin Mary surrounded by light. She looked upon him with such loving kindness that he was filled with unspeakable happiness as she spoke to him in his native language.

She instructed him to go to the Spanish Archbishop and tell him that she wanted a church built on Tepeyac Hill. When Diego told his story to the archbishop, he was instructed to return to the hill



and ask the lady for a sign to prove who she was. On December 12th, 1531, Juan relayed the request to Mary. She directed him to gather flowers growing at the top of the hill. He went, even though it was December and he knew the land to be barren. He found the summit filled with Castilian roses, which were not native to the area. When he returned, Mary told him to put them in his cloak and take them to the archbishop. Juan obeyed; as

he opened his cloak the roses fell out, and the inside of the cloak displayed the image of Mary. She was dressed like an Indian princess, with bronze skin. Her sacred image was created as a pictograph or picture writing, with every detail symbolic.

The symbols broke through the language barrier. Those who looked upon it understood the message. Within just 7 years, eight million native Mexicans were baptized as Christians. Santa Maria de Guadalupe, as she asked to be named, went to a pagan culture and brought God's love to people who, just a few years earlier, quaked in fear that they would be a human sacrifice. Mary is with child in the image, reinforcing to the pagan culture the idea of the sanctity of life. In 1999, Pope Paul II proclaimed her Patroness of the Americas and Protectress of Unborn Children.

We cannot allow ourselves to be discouraged by the evil in our society. Mary went where the faint of heart would not go, to a pagan culture where human sacrifice was a reality. Her intervention brought millions to Christ. Conversion is what is needed to heal our land. We should turn to our Lady, praying to the Patroness of the Americas for the conversion of our people.

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Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center
429 East Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA 16504

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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
fax: 824-1285
e-mail: wolccrc@eriercd.org
website: www.wordoflifeccrc.org

Office Hours:
Monday: 9:00am – 2:30pm
T-W-TH: 9:00am – 2:00pm
Friday: Closed

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, Judi Janke, Agnes Helsley
Typist: Carol Mando

Volume XXVI Issue No. 12

HE shall be
the one of
PEACE.

Micah 5:5, NRSV



December 2012