



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

February 2013

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

The Power of the Word

by Kathy Wilcox

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1). It was silent at the first moment of creation. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Genesis 1). The first words spoken came from God. He spoke and the world was created.

When the work of God was completed, other sounds echoed over the land as rain and wind, and animals and birds found their voices. Man, God's most perfect creation, made in his own image, was given the gifts of free will, reason, and speech. Man freely listened and spoke to God. Then another voice was heard by man, coming from God's adversary, and man turned away from God.

Over the years, it has become harder for man to hear the voice of God. The enemy has inundated the world's airways with his lies. Radios, TV's, I-pod's, and smart phones provide constant music, talking, and more talking. We are overloaded with information, much of which is not true. Man, whose heart was once lifted in prayer and praise to God, is now filled with pride, hatred, lust, greed, and profanity.

There is a remnant of believers who find quiet places to pray, and praise God, and seek to draw close

to him. The prayers of these faithful Christians have many times held back chastisements from God for the sin we have permitted. God has not given up on us, but he will not be mocked. He is still in charge. A recent prophesy (in the book *Tower of Light* by Michael H. Brown) states that soon the world will change. Mankind will not be destroyed, but in the new era the world will become quiet again. Technology, the prophecy declares, will be gone. When and if this prophesy does occur is, of course, open to speculation. What is important is the warning regarding the pollution of our minds from multiple sources. We who believe, who love God, who seek his face and praise him, must use this time to be God's voice in the world.

God is calling us to rise up and proclaim the Word, speak the Word, bring his Word to the lost, the lonely, to those who have been deceived. Pope Benedict has proclaimed 2013 the Year of Faith. He has asked us to evangelize.

We need to pray, fast, and be bold. Our own words will fall on deaf ears. The power is in the Word of God. We need to memorize scripture passages and

proclaim them for healing, for salvation, for peace, and to drive Satan out of our lives and the lives of others.

When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was tempted by the devil. Three temptations were presented, and three times Jesus said, "It is written," and quoted scripture to rebuke Satan. Jesus is our example and has given us the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit and his Word to bring the power of God to all.

We are the army of God; let's get to work!!!!

Encouraging words

- I am made in God's image, and he doesn't make any junk. God loves me and wants me to live a fulfilled life.
- Communing with God constantly brings light, direction, and blessings from him.
- Life is astonishingly wonderful. Even the rough spots often turn out to be pluses. Hard lessons make me wiser, kinder, and more fruitful.
- When I feel boxed in or blocked, I can know that in God's good time, he will help me be victorious.

Centering In **by Liz Geary**

- **Prayer brunch**

The Spring Prayer Brunch, hosted by the Word of Life Center, will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, from 9:30-noon at St. Joe's/Bread of Life Community Center. Cost of the brunch will be \$7.50, and a free will offering will be taken to benefit the Center's ministry. We are very blessed to have Paul Snyder from Blessed Sacrament church as the speaker and Jim Dzuricky as musician. Paul will be speaking on healing ministry. Paul leads a very successful ministry after the 7:30 PM mass at Blessed Sacrament. It would be appreciated if everyone could get reservations in at least one week in advance to allow for adequate planning. Look for details and a registration form in this edition of Reflections.

- **Memorial Report**

The Center would like to thank the family of Chet Walkiewicz for listing the Center "in lieu of flowers" in Chet's obituary. Due to your memorials and support, the Center was able to end the year in black and start the new year with the ability to "catch-up" on a few bills. We will continue to pray for the intention of Chet and for peace for his family.

- **New writer**

The Center is pleased to announce the addition of a new Reflections writer! Please be sure to read the articles by Amy Mosbacher in this and upcoming editions. We thank Amy for agreeing to give her time and talents to the newsletter. I am sure that we will find her articles both informative and uplifting. If anyone else is interested in contributing to the newsletter, please contact the Center directly for more information.

- **Save the dates**

Renewal Ministries Gathering

There will be a Renewal Ministries gathering April 26-28th in Ypsilanti, MI, at the Marriot at Eagle Crest. For more information please visit renewalministries.net.

Steubenville Conferences

Dates for the summer conferences at the Franciscan University of Steubenville are now available. The Charismatic Conference, "Brave and Steadfast," will be held on June 7-9, 2013. Please visit franciscanconferences.com, click on "adult conferences," and then click on the conference you are interested in learning more about.

- **Pledge appeal**

If you have not sent in your pledge commitment for 2013, please do so soon. It is not too late to make a monthly commitment for 2013. Your continued financial support is vital to continuing this ministry. If you are unable to make a monthly pledge, please send whatever you can, whenever you can. Please take your financial commitment to the Center to prayer. I am always so amazed and thankful for how each of you comes through for the Center when asked to do so. Thank you for your continued generosity, and God bless you!

- **Women's retreat**

The Center is excited to announce Stacy Malesiewski as the director for the 2013 women's retreat to be held April 5-7th at the dorms of Family First Sports Park. Many of you may remember Stacy as the speaker from the June 2012 prayer brunch. Music ministry will be provided by Pat Szyperski and friends from Toledo, OH. Many of you may remember Pat from past women's retreats as Renee Marazon's "side-kick." Please see the enclosed flyer and registration form for more details, and PLEASE get your deposits in as soon as possible for adequate planning. We look forward to seeing you at the retreat!

In the Beginning

by Amy Mosbacher

"All mortals tend to turn into the thing they are pretending to be."

—The Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis

How would I tell a child to come to Jesus? What would a child understand with only a child's capacities? One of a child's greatest assets is her imagination, so I would say to imagine Jesus much as she would an imaginary friend. Imagine him walking with her throughout her day, doing whatever it is she's doing. Talk to him as she would a friend. Imagine his responses. In a child's mind, the child knows the imaginary friend knows her better than anyone else, so there is honesty in her thinking. If situations come up where a decision between right and wrong is necessary, perhaps this will be her conscience (a.k.a. the Holy Spirit) speaking to her. If a child imagines Jesus, and not just any person, she can consider what God is thinking about what she's doing, and then (hopefully) be more likely to make the right decision. It's the beginning of always considering what Jesus would do, and whether her actions please him. Does it seem like play? Does it seem too silly? But Jesus said unless we become like children... That doesn't mean to be childish in our thoughts and actions, but to have the innocence and unconditional love and trust of children. Is it too much for us to imagine Jesus this way, like an imaginary friend? Consider it a

challenge, because this is prayer. It won't be some deep, profound experience, but it is a beginning, a turning of our thoughts to him. That's all prayer is, really. Perhaps, at first, this kind of prayer will be more relevant to us, rather than trying to sit still and think about some mystical person out there somewhere. God doesn't want to be "out there somewhere." He wants to be right here, living our life with us, walking with us step by insignificant step. Not every minute of our lives is some glorious offering to God; more often our lives are quiet, routine moments. He wants to be there, too. When we take those quiet moments and just live them with God walking with us, much like an imaginary friend, then we've united those moments to him, and it has become prayer. Is something so simple still considered prayer? Yes. Because as Jesus walks with us throughout our day we start to think differently, and rather than "I" need to do such and such, we think "we" need to do this. Our day becomes filled with "him and me." This way we're always living in his presence. We don't have to talk all the time. Sometimes he's just there with us. And if we discover we've done something without thinking of him, then just imagine him again right where you are. He's happy every time we think of him. It's a beginning. Take the challenge.



February 22, 2013

Memorials for Chet Walkiewicz

Gus and Judi Janke
Bob and Sandy Heinlein
Evan and Kathy Turner
Marianne Borkowski
Mike and Karen Giannamore
Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
Belle Chylinski
Mary Chivers
Jack and Audrey Reese
Karen and David Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Gildo Torcia
Mary Pat Ringhand
Bonnie Wodarski
St. Joseph Church Religious
Ed Teachers
Shirley Dovichow and John
Cambra
Vinnie and Joie Martin

Pack well

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, or relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

Based on the "Journey to Hope,"
www.rethinkchurch.org/lent

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 West 38th St. 7:30pm
Wednesday February 6

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

Joe Visnoski
Brenda Viszneki
Ralph Bruno
Frances Sanzo
Gene Zarnick II
Chet Walkiewicz

Requested by

Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
Gus & Judi Janke
T.A. Walkiewicz
Vinnie and Joie Martin
T.A. Walkiewicz
(See list on page 3)

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.

“Transitory gods are not able to save or bring happiness to the human heart. Only God is able. It is faith we must rediscover.”

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
Feb. 3,10,17,24

Acts II Community

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

† 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
Feb. 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)
Feb. 4,11,18,25
(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
Feb. 11,25

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Joe Kirsch 459-7100
Feb. 5,12,19,26

Chosen Prayer Group

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

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

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

† Thursday:

St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Prayer Meeting 7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Gene Kobal (814) 392-1162
Feb. 7,14,21,28 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
Bill Adam 899-9222
Feb. 7,14,21,28

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Administration Bldg.
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
Feb. 14

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

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

God alone judges our ministry

by Jack Heintzel

“...through glory and dishonor,
bad report and good report...”

2 Cor. 6:8

In the sixth chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul is telling what he has gone through to spread the Gospel. He endured many difficulties, including lack of respect from many people with whom he was dealing. He knew his God-given ministry was genuine, but he was regarded as an imposter; he was well known, yet regarded as unknown. He was not thought to be important by most people. In short, as comedian Rodney Dangerfield jokingly claimed about himself, Paul “got no respect.”

Perhaps we feel that way about our own ministry. We work hard, but might feel that very few people appreciate what we do. We might become discouraged because our ministry is unnoticed or considered unimportant. Our tasks may seem menial, but remember Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

Oswald Chambers offers some advice from his book, *My Utmost for His Highest*. He says that if we really believe that our ministry is from God, we should be willing to be “broken bread and poured out wine” for him. Chambers says, “The thing that testifies for God and the people of God in the long run is steady perseverance, even when the work cannot be seen by others. And the only way to live an undefeated life is to live looking to God.”

If we feel our service to God is drudgery, we should take the first step. As God inspires us to take the initiative, we can get out of

the doldrums. We might feel some self-pity. But as we arise out of our negative feelings, we will find power to overcome through Jesus Christ. In our difficulties we should understand, in Chambers’ words, “God does not give us overcoming life; he gives us life *as we overcome*.”

Mother Basilea Schlink, in *Behold His Love*, tells us to look at Jesus at Gethsemane. She says, “Jesus shows us that there is no need for us to know whether our ministry and sacrifice are meaningful. The reverse is true. Through his battle in Gethsemane he proved: the mightier the fruit of our ministry, the more sacrificial the way will be and the less meaningful our path will appear. The greater our ministry, the more frequent the enemy’s accusation that we are wrongfully committed by going this way. But if we follow Jesus without attending to the voice of the enemy and remain obedient to God until the end, we will bear much fruit.”

Consider Paul’s words in Acts 20:24: “I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord has given me.” We should be willing to be “spent” in our service to him, not thinking about ourselves but God’s call to us. Let’s not look at how useful we appear, but rather make sure we are doing his will. We belong to him.

One thing we can all do: encourage one another. That will help keep us on the right track spiritually.

All is well

Horatio Spafford (1828-1888), a prominent, wealthy Chicago lawyer, is remembered for writing the beloved hymn “It Is Well With My Soul.”

It seems such lyrics would come naturally to someone so successful. But Spafford didn’t pen the hymn during life’s high points. Instead, the words poured forth amid tragedy.

In 1871, the Great Chicago Fire wiped out Spafford’s life savings. Two years later, his wife Anna and their four daughters headed to Europe on the *SS Ville Du Havre*, with Spafford to follow a few days later. The boat was struck by another vessel and sank, killing 226 of the 313 people onboard. Although Anna survived, the Spafford girls didn’t.

After receiving the news, Spafford went to England to get Anna. While sailing over the spot where his daughters had died, he wrote the lyrics to “It Is Well With My Soul.”

The lyrics are a reminder that no matter what life brings, our souls can be at rest in God.

“When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea
billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast
taught me to say,
It is well, it is well,
with my soul.”

**Date:
Saturday
3/2/13**

9:30 til Noon

Prayer Brunch

Sponsored by:

**Word of Life Catholic
Charismatic Renewal Center**

**Held at:
St. Joseph Bread of Life
Community Center
139 West 24th Street,
Erie, PA**

- *Fellowship*
- *Brunch*
- *Praise & Worship*
- *Talk*
- *Prayer for personal needs*

***Brunch fee: \$7.50
must accompany
reservation.***



Speaker: Paul J. Snyder, Jr.

Our speaker for this month's brunch is Paul Snyder, Jr. Paul is a member of Blessed Sacrament Church where he serves as a 10th grade religious ed instructor and also serves in the healing ministry at the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

Paul was born and raised Catholic and gave his life to Christ when he was 19 years old. His talk will be centered on healing using the Scriptures: Matt. 18:19-20 and James 5:14-15. Paul is married and the father of five children. He works as an engineer at Lord Corp.

Please keep top portion for future reference

Prayer Brunch Registration Saturday, March 2, 2013

Number of Reservations at \$7.50 _____

**Deadline for registration is
February 25, 2013**

Name/s _____

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 16504**

Catholic Charismatic Women's Retreat

April 5th —7th , 2013

Sponsored by : Word of Life

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

**Family First Sports
Park Dorm Facility**

Holy Spirit, Secret Garden: Finding Peace in Everyday Life

Registration costs:

(If deposit is received by date)

**Cost of Retreat with a Private
Room:**

\$100 by March 8th or \$110 after

**Cost of Retreat with a shared
room (*indicate on form who you
will be with & make plans prior to
registering*):**

\$90 by March 8th or \$100 after

***A \$50 deposit is due with registration
and the balance is due to the Center
by Friday, March 29th.***

**Dinner on Friday is included.
Please bring your own bedding,
towels, and toiletries as they are not
provided by Family First. Also
bring a Bible, notebook and snack
to share if you wish.**



**Meet your
Retreat Director:**
Stacy Malesiewski

Stacy is a member of St. Gregory Parish in North East where she serves as a lector. Stacy is married and is the mother of three children whom she currently home schools. She works as the Art Director for Gray Matter Media, Inc. She has written many editorials on the Catholic faith and has authored a soon-to-be published book called *A Pilgrim's Journey Into the Divine Will*. Stacy was also the featured speaker at the March 2012 Prayer Brunch sponsored by the Center.

**Praise and Worship by:
Pat Szyperski & Friends
From Toledo, OH**



Books for sale

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

2013 Women's Retreat Registration, April 5th-7th

Date Mailed _____

Have you made a Life in the Spirit Seminar? Yes____ No____

Special physical needs _____
(please indicate if 1st floor is required)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____ Rooming With _____

Please fill in the designated amounts:

Private room: by March 8 — \$100.00 ()

After March 8 — \$110.00 ()

Shared room by March 8 — \$90 ()

After March 8 — \$100 ()

Donation \$ _____ ()

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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

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website: www.wordoflifecrc.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, Amy Mosbacher

Typist: Carol Mando

Volume XXVII

Issue No. 2

JESUS CHRIST *is the same*
YESTERDAY and TODAY
and FOREVER.



Hebrews 13:8, NIV

February 2013