



# Reflections

## Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

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### February 2014

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

#### Praise God!

By Kathy Wilcox

February is the month when Saint Valentine’s Day reminds us to love – to love our spouses, family members, and friends. We buy gifts, send cards, and whisper, sing, and even shout our love to each other. But what about God? Do we have a special time, day, month, etc. set aside to show and tell our Blessed Lord how much we love him? He certainly does not forget about us.

St. Francis of Assisi was so in love with our Lord that he gave up his wealth and took extreme personal vows of sacrifice, poverty, and prayer. He was not a writer, choosing to use his time serving others, especially the poor. One of the companions of St. Francis, Brother Leo, had a great desire to have a memorial of the words of the Lord as written by the hand of Francis. At his request Francis said, “Bring me paper and ink, for I wish to write the words of God and His praises which I have been meditating in my heart.” He then wrote what has become known as the “Praises of Brother Leo.” The document has been preserved in the sacristy of St. Francis’ church and is one of the few in Francis’ own writing.

Praise, praise, praise! In this beautiful prayer, Francis acknowledges God’s greatness,

majesty, and sovereignty. He continues by praising God for His love for us, for His gifts to us, and especially for our salvation. The prayer goes on to call us to praise God, the heavens and earth, every creature in heaven and on earth, and under the earth and even in the sea to praise and exalt God forever. He concludes with this:

**“Almighty, most holy,  
most high and sovereign  
God, the sovereign good,  
everything that is good,  
wholly good, who alone  
are good: to you let us  
render all praise, all glory,  
all thanks, all honor, all  
blessing, and to you let us  
refer always whatever is  
good. Amen.”**

It is very easy to slip into our petitions when we kneel to pray, forgetting that God is love. It’s too easy to forget that He responds to the love of His people by pouring out more love to us. We, who are Charismatic, have been given the gifts of praise; we can do it in tongues, as well as in song and other prayer modes. We need to make our Blessed Lord our first thought every day with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, continuing all through the day. Intimacy does not just happen, whether with other people or with

God. We need to enter into any relationship by spending time with the person, showing and speaking of our love.

**Enter His gates with  
thanksgiving and His  
courts with praise; give  
thanks to Him and praise  
His name. –Psalm 100:44**

If you were not at our October Conference, where Fr. Poulson gave us a copy of the ‘Praises of Brother Leo,’ you can ask the Word of Life Center for a copy. It is a beautiful way to get your prayer time started.

Praise God!!



**“BE EXALTED,  
O LORD,  
—in your—  
STRENGTH!  
WE WILL SING  
& PRAISE  
—your—  
POWER.”**

**PSALM 21:13, NRSV**

## Centering in

By Liz Geary

### • Office updates

There are a few updates in office communication that you will need to be aware of this year. The first is that the office fax number is no longer in use. Those wanting to fax a document to the office will need to use the main diocesan fax number, (814) 824-1128. Please write: *Attention: Word of Life* somewhere on the document.

The second change that you will need to be aware of is that I now have a direct phone extension that allows for voice mail messages. The main office number remains (814) 824-1286, but you can now contact my desk directly at (814) 824-1285 if needed. As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the Center.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally announce the retirement of long-time administrative assistant to the Word of Life Center, Barbara Schlosser. May Barbara find the Lord's peace and joy in her retirement.

### • Life in the Spirit

Please pray for the Life in the Spirit Seminar taking place at the Cambridge Springs Women's Correctional Facility on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, and for the success of the follow-up that is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>. A special "thank you" goes to both Kathy Wilcox and T.A. Walkiewicz for all their work in

organizing both days, and to the entire team for their assistance and prayers.

Please also continue to pray for the success of the on-going prayer group at the Albion Men's Correctional Facility. The Lord is working in a mighty way with these ministries.

### • Technology

Don't forget to check out the Center web page: [www.wordoflifeccrc.org](http://www.wordoflifeccrc.org), the Facebook page: Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center (Erie, PA), and Twitter page: @WordofLifeCent1. If you need assistance in utilizing the technology, please don't hesitate to contact the Center. I will do my best to walk you through it. The accounts are updated several times during the week to keep everyone informed and uplifted!

### • Prayer brunch

Please join us for the spring prayer brunch on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30 AM – noon at St. Joseph/BOL community center. The brunch will be catered by a friend of the Center, April Blum. We are blessed to have Angelo Phillips providing praise and worship.

Our speaker for the morning will be Bonnie Pratt, Campus Ministry Coordinator at Penn State Behrend. We will also hear testimonies from the "All Things New" retreat weekend by some of the students who attended the weekend.

Reservations are due by Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Please see page 7 in this issue for more information and for an event flyer and a registration form. You can use the enclosed envelope to send in your reservation to the Center. Please join us for this uplifting event.

### • Prayer Cards

Anyone who is interested in obtaining a prayer card from Msgr. James Peterson's funeral is invited to contact the Center. We have a limited number available that have been re-printed, and they will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Thank you for honoring Fr. Pete and his memory in prayer.

### • Membership dinner

I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the membership/ appreciation dinner that took place on January 19<sup>th</sup>. I was blessed to see so many smiling faces. ☺



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

## **Transformed and thankful**

By Agnes Helsley

Chuck (formally Charles) Colson is one of my favorite authors. I was shocked recently by the title of an article referring to his death in 2012. The newspaper covering his death chose to refer to Colson as “Nixon’s ‘dirty tricks’ man.” While that may have been true, it seemed as though a few of his accomplishments would have been more appropriate to mention in a death notice. Colson paid for his part in the Watergate scandal by serving a prison term during which he was touched by the Holy Spirit. His conversion was referred to by many as “jailhouse religion.” In truth, he was dramatically transformed by his faith and became the founder of Prison Fellowship, a movement which has greatly helped many of the prison population to come to the knowledge of Christ as their Savior. Colson also became an inspiring author of faith-building books.

Colson, like the apostle Paul, never denied his past but gave God glory for His redeeming power. We don’t have to keep whipping ourselves over past sin, but we do need to thank God for His mercy. He steps into our lives announcing the good news of salvation and empowers us through the Holy Spirit to live our lives for the glory of God. What mercy we have been shown, what divine power is at work in us as we say “yes” to Him!

For all of us, part of the family of God, Paul’s prayer found in Ephesians 3:14-21 is answered through the grace and mercy of our heavenly Father. “For this

reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”

We are called; we are chosen, and we are empowered to be representatives of the Almighty God, Who endows us with His Spirit to reveal Him to a hurting world.

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### **Be a disciple**

A girl returning home from Sunday school expressed disappointment with the class’s reaction after the day’s lesson.

“We were taught to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations,” she said, “but we just sat!”

### **Prayer for vocations**

Lord God, creator of all things and source of all gifts and talents, your Son came to this world to fulfill His vocation as the Redeemer of all humanity.

Grant the sons and daughters of the parishes of the Diocese of Erie a profound awareness of their own vocations. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, may they come to realize their distinct place in your divine plan.

Give them the grace to recognize and the courage to pursue vocations as devoted priests, deacons and consecrated women and men to assist the Diocese of Erie in fulfilling her mission.

With the intercession of Saint Patrick, our patron, who preached the Gospel in word and deed, we pray that they may find happiness and fulfillment in a life of service to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Imprimatur, July 29, 2013, The Most Reverend Lawrence Tk. Persico, JCL, Bishop of Erie

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### **Walking with God**

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with Him. It’s about sticking with Him when the day is blue and also when it’s filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It’s about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

— Greg Laurie

### Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace  
2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. 7:30PM  
Wednesday February 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

Joseph Kostek  
Jackie Fontecchio  
Dolores Bindseil

#### Requested by

M/M Ray Pilewski  
Mary Ann DeFazio Larsen  
Carol Mando

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.

**“To one who has faith, no explanation  
is necessary.**

**To one without faith, no explanation  
is possible.**

**–St. Thomas Aquinas**

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. 2,9,16,23

##### **Acts II Community**

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

#### † 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. 3,10,17,24

##### **Leopold Center**

1017 West 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary  
At 3:00PM (before Mass)  
Feb. 3,10,17,24  
(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. 10,24

#### † Tuesday:

##### **Son of God Prayer Group**

Holy Rosary Church  
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM  
Pat Montefiori 823-3968  
Feb. 4,11,18,25

#### **Chosen Prayer Group**

St. Theresa Church,  
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon  
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519  
Feb. 4,11,18,25

#### † Wednesday:

##### **St. Mark's Prayer Group**

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

#### † Thursday:

**St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Prayer Meeting** 7:00PM  
139 W. 24<sup>th</sup> St. – Upstairs in Center  
Regi Connolly (814) 866-0505  
Feb. 6,13,20,27 (Call first)

#### **St. Boniface PG**

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM  
John Griebel 825-3588  
Feb. 6,13,20,27

#### **Wildfire Prayer Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month 7:00 PM  
5031 W. Ridge Rd..  
S.S.J. Living Center  
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165  
Feb. 13

#### † Friday:

##### **Light of the World Community**

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

## The new law of retaliation

By Amy Mosbacher

“But what I say to you is: offer no resistance to injury. When a person strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer him the other” (Matt. 5:39 NAB). Sometimes the sayings of Jesus are really hard. It’s one thing to read it and bravely think, yes, I can do this because it’s what Jesus asks, but actually doing it is another thing.

Some people we can choose to associate with, others we can’t. One particular person has a personality that rubs me wrong, as I’m sure I do her. If she irritates me that much I most likely annoy her as well, as there’s not much we have in common. I have to believe the problem lies not so much with her as it does me. I’m far too sensitive and take things the wrong way. Often I notice when we’re in a group that no one else seems bothered by her jabs, or if they do, they let it roll off and make nothing of it. See how weak I am, that I let words bother me? I so much want to ask others if I’m the only person who reacts that badly, but if they can manage not to gossip then surely I can, too.

What I need to learn is wisdom. Is there a line between turning the other cheek and standing up for oneself? How do I defend myself without starting an argument? I’ve no desire to debate and would rather have peaceful visits for the sake of everyone involved. Besides, if I dispute what she says I might end up saying something she’ll take the wrong way. Then I’m no better. If I take the example Jesus gave during His trial, I note that He didn’t defend

Himself either. He simply said nothing. Therefore I say nothing; I smile and try to gloss over the criticism. “Pray for your persecutors” (Mt. 5:44 NAB). Do I ever! I offer Jesus the hurt at the time and then forgive over and over again every time I think about it. I pray that my problem person would see in her heart the damage her words cause, and that she would know the freedom that comes from not being concerned with other people’s affairs. I pray for myself that I would be more understanding and try to see things from her point of view. I also pray for Jesus to help me “remove the plank from my own eye first” (Mt. 7:5 NAB), because if I can so easily find fault with her personality then mine can’t be any better.

On the other hand, there is something to be gained out of this. Yes, I’ve prayed for that person extensively. It doesn’t seem to me that she’s changed at all, but I know I have. Time spent thinking about the Passion of Jesus is never wasted. God helped me unite my small suffering with His, and Jesus’ own strength overflowed to me. Now when I’m with this other person, the stinging words don’t stop but I can deal with them better. I’ve still a long way to go but there’s hope. So why put all this trouble in an article? Because I want people to see that prayer does change things, maybe just not the way we hope. My trial didn’t go away, but I’m stronger for it and can better offer the affliction to Jesus. Don’t give up. Praise the name of Jesus, now and forever!

## O Love that will not let me go

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

George Matheson(1842-1906) wrote the words to this much-loved hymn while feeling intensely lonely and afraid.

Years back, his fiancé had broken their engagement upon learning he was going blind. Despite that challenge, Matheson had followed God’s call to a fruitful pastoral ministry – with his sister’s assistance. Now his sister was getting married, and Matheson worried about who would take care of him and if anyone would ever want to marry him.

Amid such despair, Matheson later shared, God gave him all four verses of this hymn in five minutes. It’s a poignant reminder that God’s love sustains us even when human love falls short.

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## Wisdom from a past president

We have staked the whole of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the ten commandments of God.

– James Madison

## Prophecy corner

*In this space we will periodically print prophetic words from God that are appropriate for us. This is the first in a series.*

Thus says the Lord. My grace has saved you. My blood has washed you clean. My life, my death and my resurrection have bought you, and my holy word has taught you. YOU ARE MINE. My Holy Spirit has captured you!

My love for you has caused your heart to fall in love with me. No one ... NO ONE ... loves you more, and no one can lessen the fire that burns in my heart for you.

There was a time when you had no fire within. Your heart was heavy, hard and cold. But my ever-watchful eye stayed upon you, waiting for the embers to catch, to become light for the lost and warmth for the world. Has the heat grown hotter and light shown brighter, or has it become chilled and dim? Has the wind in the world blown it out? No, my child, it has not. I can see a flint, and I will strike it with the sword of My Spirit. Sparks will fly, and the familiar works that melted your heart long ago will blaze again. Together, we will set My Church on fire.

*Shared by June Adam,  
September 27, 2013*

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I have learned that asking is the only way to activate spiritual electricity. It is always there for me, but I always have to ask for it.

— Sarah Ban Breathnach

## The secrets of the Teddy Bear Lady

Most of the people at Chicago's Children's Hospital did not know her name. They just knew her as the sweet elderly lady in the vivid red suit who wanted to make sure that every sick child had a teddy bear to hug and caress. She kept bringing the stuffed animals, purchased with her own money, to give to ailing children. That is why she was simply called The Teddy Bear Lady.

Her name was Gladys Holm, a retired secretary for an insurance company, who lived alone in a tiny apartment in Evanston. It wasn't that she couldn't afford better, although ... no one except her attorney and stockbroker knew she was quite wealthy.

When she died at age 86, she had a portfolio worth over \$18 million. She had never married and had no heirs. Her will simply directed that the bulk of her estate be given to The Children's Memorial Hospital. Her gift was to go to medical research so that new methods of treating sick or disabled children might be developed.

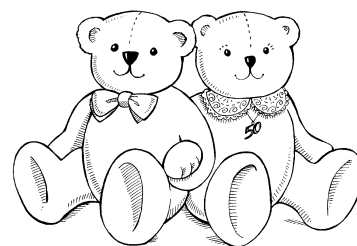
The hospital authorities were absolutely shocked by the news. No one had the slightest idea that the tall, happy woman delivering teddy bears to ailing children had such wealth. As they began to piece together more of her life's story, they discovered something else. They learned that the gifts of teddy bears were really a ruse. She gave away teddy bears to learn more about the financial resources of the families of the children. When she learned that parents did not have hospitalization or enough to cover would make her a "slumbering Church." Instead, the

## The Pope speaks to us

members of the Church, the baptized, must The Church cannot be merely "a babysitter who takes care of the child just to get him to sleep." That evangelize. When we do this the Church becomes a mother who generates children, capable of bringing Christ to the world. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to become baptized persons who are brave and sure that the Holy Spirit who is in us, received at baptism, always moves us to proclaim Jesus Christ with our life, our testimony and even with our words.

*Pope Francis,  
homily of April 17, 2013*

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medical expenses, she very quietly had taken care of their bills. One wonders if Gladys Holm was simply putting into practice what the One known as the Great Physician had recommended: "When you give to the needy do not announce it with trumpets ... when you give to the needy do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret ..." (Matthew 6:2-4).

At the hospital's memorial service for Gladys, someone had put a teddy bear on every chair.

# PRAYER BRUNCH

SPONSORED BY: WORD OF LIFE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC  
RENEWAL CENTER

**Saturday, March 22, 2014  
9:30am-Noon**

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

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

**Cost of Brunch: \$8.00  
Must accompany reservation.**

**A free will offering will be  
taken.**

**Praise and Worship by  
Angelo Phillips.**

## Speaker



Bonnie Pratt

Bonnie Pratt is the Co-ordinator of Catholic Campus Ministry at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. She grew up in a Catholic family in Erie, belonging to St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community. Bonnie attended St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA, where she received a B.S. in Elementary Instruction and a minor in Catholic Theology. Bonnie was very involved with campus ministry as a student, which inspires her in her current work with college students.

The campus ministry recently held their first Life in the Spirit retreat, which was called "All Things New". Some of the students who are involved with the campus ministry will be sharing testimonies. Bonnie's talk is entitled "The Holy Spirit at work in the Millennial Generation".

Get your reservations in early and see how the Holy Spirit is at work in our young adults. You wont want to miss this exciting program.

Clip and save

## PRAYER BRUNCH RESERVATION SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014

\$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for reservation is March 17, 2014

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 16504

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Office hours:  
M-W-F. 8am – 2:30pm

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, Agnes Helsley, Amy Mosbacher  
Typist: Carol Mando

**Volume XXVIII      Issue No. 2**



*“Love does  
no wrong to  
a neighbor; therefore,  
love is the fulfilling  
of the law.”*

Romans 13:10, NRSV

**FEBRUARY 2014**