



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

February 2015

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

Temptations

By Kathy Wilcox

As we enter the season of Lent, the church encourages us to look inward, and honestly face our weaknesses, temptations and sins. Why is this necessary for people who believe in God? We have to remember that Satan and the other fallen angels knew God personally, but that was not enough to keep them faithful. The angels and we mortals were all given a free will. We are constantly using our will to make choices – choices which have consequences, bringing us closer to God or pushing us farther away. When Adam and Eve chose to defy God, we inherited our sin nature from them. So our nature leads us to make wrong choices. Jesus not only came to save us from eternal damnation for our sins; he also came to teach us how to make good choices. He gives us spiritual gifts to strengthen us spiritually, emotionally and intellectually.

How does temptation enter into this picture? Do all temptations come from the devil? In his book: *Interview with an Exorcist*, Fr. Jose Antonio Fortea explains that they do not. We have a free will that in itself makes it easy for us to make wrong choices. That does not mean that the evil one cannot see our weaknesses and

use them to tempt us into falling out of God's graces. So, what do we do?

All we need to do is ask: What did Jesus do? Jesus was God, and as such was not vulnerable to temptation; yet he went into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights (Luke 4:1-13). He fasted and prayed to prepare for his public ministry. Satan, in his pride, thought that he could tempt Jesus away from his earthly mission. In reality, Jesus did not need to do this. Instead, He used Satan's arrogance to give us another teachable moment!

The church gives us the season of Lent, with 40 days and nights, and encourages that we follow Jesus' example. We fast to discipline our bodies, so that when we are tempted in our human nature, we can resist. We pray so that when we are tempted spiritually we can resist. We must read and know the Word of God, so that when we are tempted intellectually, we will recognize lies and use the truth to combat the enemy as Jesus did.

I have learned that temptation is a gift, one that will reveal my weaknesses, and that the sacrament of confession showers us with grace to strengthen us. It is my experience that when I

confess a particular sin, I had better prepare to be tempted the minute I walk out of the confessional. It is easy to slip right back into the wrong choice; but with just a prayer, Jesus is there to give the grace to avoid sin. Each time this happens I grow stronger, and the temptation can no longer drag me down.

So it does not matter whether temptation comes from the devil or our own sin nature. We have been given the Charismatic gift of discernment of spirits. We can command the demons to go in Jesus name if Satan is the source, and we have the sacrament of confession to strengthen our human nature. We must fast, pray and confess, and then we will have the protection of the precious blood of Christ to strengthen us in all circumstances. Praise God!



Ash Wednesday
February 18

Centering in

(Ed. note: You did not receive an issue of *Reflections* in January due to the illness of our administrator, Liz Geary. The Board of Directors is attempting to carry on with Liz's guidance. She is invaluable to us, and we ask you to join us in praying for a complete recovery for her. You can read/print the January issue by going to the Erie Diocesan website www.eriescd.org. Find Diocesan Offices and click on the link for Word of Life Renewal Center. Then click on words "January newsletter".)

Support the Center

It's not too late to get your pledge commitment and/or newsletter support in for 2015! If you are in need of a pledge form, please contact the Center. Thank you to all those who have already sent in donations for the newsletter and also thank you to those who have already sent in pledge commitments for 2015. Every dollar donated is vital to the Center being able to continue as a ministry. All checks should be made payable to the Word of Life Renewal Center. Any newsletter support donations should indicate *newsletter support* on the memo line of the check or with a note attached to a cash donation. Again, thank you for your continued support.

2015 women's retreat

This is just a reminder that the 2015 Women's Charismatic Retreat is still scheduled for Friday, April 10th through

Sunday, April 12th at the Riverside Inn at Cambridge Springs, PA. We are pleased to announce that the retreat director and featured speaker will be Stacy Malesiewski from Elkland, PA (formerly from North East, PA.) You might remember Stacy as a speaker from a summer prayer brunch a few years ago. Pricing and rooming options were discussed in the December 2014 edition of *Reflections*. If anyone has any questions or concerns with the fee structures, you are welcome to contact the Center directly with your questions. We will do our best to explain all the pricing options. Please save the date for the women's retreat and get your reservations and deposits in early.

Urgent notice: a registration form is included in this issue. The deadline for retreat registration is **March 25th**. Unless we have 50 registrations by then we will have to cancel. Please act soon if you are interested. Call retreat coordinator T.A. Walkiewicz at 814-833-9717. We really want you to come!

Office hours for Center

Office hours will be irregular for a while. Please call before coming. We will be checking phone messages and mail. The Center will be open by appointment only.

Year of Unity

The committee of Catholic Leadership Groups of the

Charismatic Renewal in the U.S. has designated 2015 as the "Year of Unity" in the 5-year journey to the 50th Anniversary celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This will take place in 2017, the year of Jubilee. The Leadership Groups are: the Alliance of Filipino Prayer Communities, the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities, the National Hispanic Committee, the Haitian Charismatic Council, and the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. For several years this coalition has been working on a document called *Fostering Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Covenant of Understanding*. It will be a unified attempt to promote baptism in the Holy Spirit and the use of the charisms.

Prayer group help

The National Service Committee offers help for prayer groups. A publication called *Strengthening Prayer Groups* contains articles written to specifically build up Charismatic groups. Included are concerns such as steps to better worship leading, encouraging charisms, and building strong core groups. This resource booklet is available for a cost of \$2.50. Call 1-800-338-2445 to order (ask about discounts).

Are we ready to use God's gifts?

By Jack Heintzel

I assume that most readers of *Reflections* are Charismatic Catholics. We have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. We are looking to serve God in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to effectively spread the Gospel whenever and however we can. Our Diocesan Liaison, Fr. David Poulson, has consistently encouraged us to make more use of the spiritual gifts (charisms) we have been given by God. He emphasizes that effective use of these gifts is the primary way to draw people into the life of Christ. He reminds us of the first Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit fell in power upon the disciples of Jesus. They then revolutionized the world with the Gospel of Christ. He calls us to do the same to build up today's Church. We have to be more "charismatic" in our gatherings and in our daily lives; we must be overflowing with the Holy Spirit. This is what is necessary to draw people to God.

In this light I want to present an excerpt from a book entitled *The Hidden Power of Speaking in Tongues* by Mahesh Chavda. He gives us encouragement to use the Corinthian gifts. It has long been said that the gift of tongues (our prayer language) is the gateway to the use of the other eight gifts. Chavda says this:

"Through the years I have heard many people ask questions like, 'Should all Christians speak in tongues?' 'Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit really necessary?' Can't we get along just fine as believers without all that stuff?' 'Is speaking in tongues the only

way for us to 'connect' with the Holy Spirit?'"

"At the heart of these questions lies the old debate over the present role and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church. Many believers contend that being baptized in the Spirit is not 'necessary' for a Christian, and claim that they can live satisfying and effective Christian lives without speaking in tongues. For me, however, this begs the question, 'Why settle for less than the best?' If the baptism of the Holy Spirit, along with speaking in tongues and all its other advantages, is readily available to all believers, why would we not want to avail ourselves of everything it has to offer?"

"The baptism of the Holy Spirit, with its accompanying sign of speaking in tongues, is important to us for several reasons. First, it connects us to the glory of God, and works to conform us to the image of Christ. Second, the language of the Spirit helps us grow in our faith. Third, it helps place a spiritual covering and protection over ourselves and our families. Just as there are pestilences in the natural world, there are also pestilences in the realm of the Spirit. It is the anointing and blood of Jesus that protect us, and the Holy Spirit is the vehicle by whom they come to us."

"We are convinced beyond doubt of the value and power of speaking in tongues. It is the language of the Spirit, the prayer language that keeps us in the atmosphere of Heaven and helps

us remain sensitive to the work of God's grace in our lives and to the healing and redemption provided for us by the cross of Christ. As we learn and practice praying in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit Himself molds inside us a heart through which spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit can flow easily."

So let us seek to be more fluent in our prayer language, and more open to all the charisms. Let's not hold back in our efforts to draw people deeper into the life of Christ. Let's be more "charismatic."

The art gallery

How does the soul wait upon God?

Picture it this way: We're in an art gallery and a certain painting catches our eye. We want to get as much meaning and inspiration from it as possible. Do we rush past it and expect meaning to leap out as we pass? No, we have to wait in its presence, stand or sit in front of the painting and wait for it to speak to our innermost soul.

So it is with God. We have to open our souls to let God's personality invade ours. We must wait and not rush.

In this Lenten season, let us find occasions to be still and come to know God. "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10).

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday February 4 2015

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

Dan Cahill
Mary Ann Hughes
Jerome "Joe" Hughes
Edwin Bindseil
Frank Noversel
Sr. Emelie Rose
Mary Jane Spiker
Helen Urmann
Jean Kennedy

Requested by

Ray Pilewski Family
Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
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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.

**"Be submissive to good, unbending to evil, gentle in generosity, untiring in love, just in all things."
– St. Columbanus**

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



PRAYER GROUPS

† Sunday

Shalom in Jesus Prayer Group
In home 6:30PM
Rick Kenawell (814) 375-0328
DuBois, PA
February 1,8,15,22

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
February 1,8,15,22

† 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
February 2,9,16,23

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
February 2,9,16,23
(Except major holidays)

River of Life PG

2nd & 4th Monday evenings
7:00PM
St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA
Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104
February 9,23

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
February 3,10,17,24

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
February 3,10,17,24

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
February 4,11,18,25

† Thursday: Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
February 12

St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life Prayer Meeting

7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connelly (814) 866-0505
February 5,12,19,26

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
John Griebel 825-3588
February 5,12,19,26

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
February 6,13,20,27

Yes, Lord, we believe

By Agnes D. Helsley

2014 was a momentous year for our family. God saw fit to allow the most stressful events in life to visit us at measured intervals. In March our beloved daughter-in-law (Jack's mother) died. Great sorrow filled our hearts and wonder at the grace given to Jack. He never mourned, he adapted to childcare provisions and his life went on. What a blessing! The family did not have to experience the grief of a child mourning the loss of a mother. In July Glenn (most know him as Ed Helsley) suffered a subdural hematoma and required brain surgery. God's mercy saw him through that with no lasting consequences.

While Glenn was recovering, his elder brother's wife died and one of my brothers also died. I had six brothers. Only one remains. Two sisters and one brother out of ten of us. I'm praying for an unbroken circle in heaven.

The ravages of age convinced our children (and us) that we needed to sell our home and move into senior living. Steps, snow and grass were becoming enemies! The house sold in one day! Three couples looked at it. Three couples wanted to buy it. Amazing, did they know the little things I thought would be drawbacks? Low ceiling in family room and upstairs bedrooms -- apparently that didn't matter.

The closing was on November 12, Glenn's birthday. We moved to Parkside to an apartment I thought would be dark but it was available. Our house was sold, the new residents had a lease

ending on the closing date and they were in, we were out! The Parkside director said that we could move to a "western exposure" apartment when one became available. Lo and behold, the leaves dropped off the trees when we had that 13 or so inches of snow at the end of a beautiful warm (69 degrees) moving week. There is light, the apartment is charming and I am exhausted from packing and moving. Let us stay *here*. Oh no, the apartment has been taken by another couple with a pet and desirous of first floor ease to the outdoors. The director has found us the "western exposure" residence. Oh joy, we move again. Fifty-five years without moving and now twice in one month. I have been assured that moving within the building will be a piece of cake. Yeah, sure.

We have one certainty. Our God is faithful. We have been freed of much stuff accumulated over the span of 55 years. We are ambulatory, taking nourishment, and of reasonably sound mind. We are ready to begin the next leg of our journey heavenward. Praise God, His love is everlasting!

No regrets

At one time or another we all regret something. You may regret something you said, or that you didn't say something. You may regret that you stayed too late, or that you went too early. You may regret that you won something or that you lost. But in all your life, you'll never regret being kind.

An anonymous testimony

I wanted to share this testimony to say how much the Lord has been helping me since I've been attending a prayer meeting. I want to tell everyone with firm conviction that Jesus Christ is healing me of my anxiety. It feels to me it is almost entirely gone. Since I've going to a prayer group since April 2014, the Lord has shown me things from the past I had buried and had never forgiven myself for. I didn't realize that subconsciously I was still carrying a burden of never being able to forgive myself for not being perfect, and had been carrying this for around ten years. I was not able to do this on my own, but because He is my Savior, He gave me the ability to see myself as He does and to forgive myself and not carry those burdens anymore. He gave me to know I was forgiven and free from them a long time ago in His eyes, and it was no longer a sin I had to feel guilty about. He gave me to know there is no condemnation in Christ. I want to tell the whole world that my heart was broken and He healed me.

When the kingdom comes

I believe that we can live on Earth according to the fulfillment of God's will, and that when the will of God is done on Earth as it is done in heaven, every man will love his fellow man and act towards them as he desires they shall act towards him. I believe that the welfare of each is bound up in the welfare of all.

— Helen Keller,

In Midstream: My Later Life

Of swastikas and memories

By Amy Mosbacher

Have we, as Christians, forgotten who we are? Are we letting the devil wear away our identities? I ask because of a couple recent events that occurred, both having to do with the swastika. It may not seem like there is a connection, but let me explain.

A few months ago I was flipping through my grandpa's 1939 yearbook. Under his name there were several activities listed, one of which was the Swastika Club. My grandpa fought in C Company from Illinois in the Rhineland, and I knew he'd have nothing to do with what the swastika represented. A quick phone call revealed the Swastika Club was a literature group. I did some research and discovered that way before Hitler, the swastika was a worldwide symbol of good luck and prosperity for everyone from the Egyptian to the Native American. It only gained its negative connotations when Hitler used it to represent the Nazi Party in Germany. My grandpa said it was too bad that one man took something good and used it for evil, and now that's all anyone recognizes in it.

The other event happened in December when Hallmark had to recall some wrapping paper put out for Hanukkah that bore the swastika symbol on it. Anyone reading articles about that story hopefully now knows the previous meaning attached to the symbol. But both stories cause me to wonder. God created people to be good, but the devil laid claim to us through sin. It seems to me the devil is trying to

do the same thing to Christians, making us forget our original good purpose of living for God. One way he's doing this is by causing us to forget to keep Sunday holy.

Sunday, the day of rest for Christians (or Saturday for Jews), is unique to Judeo-Christian culture. Even before the time of Christ other cultures had their holidays and celebrations, but none had a day of the week reserved for rest and worship. To foreigners that seemed a bewildering thing, but it marked the Israelite people and gave them identity. The Israelites knew that when God was done with creation He rested and joyfully claimed the last day as a sign of unity between Him and His people. Throughout the centuries they would take that Sabbath day as a reminder of their identity, God's people. They would retell their story in the course of their worship and gain strength in the remembrance, God blessing them and they blessing God.

Today, however, many Christians don't attend their worship services, much less keep Sunday as a day of rest. If we are as busy with activities on Sunday as we are during the rest of the week and fail to honor God, we're denying our souls the activity it finds most refreshing: worship of God. If our minds are kept busy with things other than God, then we slowly forget who we are and our purpose. Satan more and more claims us for himself. Any non-Christian wouldn't recognize many of us as any different from anyone else.

I know I'm horrible at keeping Sunday as a day of rest. After attending Mass, my day is usually filled. I sincerely pray that I,

along with anyone else who struggles with this goal, can reprioritize and remember why we take a day of rest and worship. I pray that in this new year we will hold fast to the person God created us to be and remember our beginnings.

Complaining to the management

Lisa Hall Anderson is a chaplain at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. She tells of going into the hospital chapel one morning and finding a young mother on her knees. She looked up when she heard Chaplain Anderson and the chaplain apologized for disturbing her. "Oh that's okay," she said, "I was just complaining to the Lord. I figure it worked for the Israelites so I'm giving it a try." They both laughed at that and then began to talk about how God listens to us regardless of our approach.

In writing about the experience, Chaplain Anderson quoted Exodus 16:9 where Moses said to Aaron: "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" One has the feeling that God can handle whatever we have to say or whatever we think in our prayer life.

— See devotion for
September 13, 1999
in *These Days*

Catholic Charismatic Women's Retreat

Sponsored by: Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

*The Inn at Riverside
One Fountain Drive
Cambridge Springs, Pa.*

April 10, 11 and 12

Retreat Director: Stacy Malesiewski

Stacy lives in Elkland, PA and was formerly an active member of St. Gregory Parish in North East. Stacy is married and is the mother of three children. 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*.

Praise and Worship:

Healing Rain with (Jane Dombrowski, Loretta Swartwood & Jessica Young)

Our retreat participants will be the only guests at the Inn so we will have the beautiful setting of the Riverside Inn and the privacy needed for a retreat! Reservations must be received by March 25th. Deposits of \$100 will be accepted with reservations, but the balance must be received by March 25th and no late reservations will be accepted. If we do not receive an adequate number of participants, we will have to cancel. You will need to bring your Bible and a notebook and, if you choose, a snack to share. Any questions: please call 814- 833-9717.

2015 Women's Retreat Registration, April 10, 11 and 12, 2015

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

Special physical or dietary needs? _____

Is 1st floor required? _____ (site is not wheelchair friendly)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Rooming With _____

Rooming options & pricing:

2 Bdrm. Unit with 4 people (4 beds): \$170.00 per person

2 Bdrm. Unit with 3 people (3-4 beds): \$185.00 per person

2 Bdrm. Unit with 2 people (2-4 beds): \$235.00 per person

1 Bdrm. unit with 2 people (2 beds): \$195.00 per person

1 Bdrm. Unit with 1 person (1-2 beds): \$285.00 per person

If you would like to make a donation for someone less fortunate to attend the retreat, please include it with your registration.

Donation \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: T. A. Walkiewicz, 3656 Bellaire Drive, Erie PA 16504

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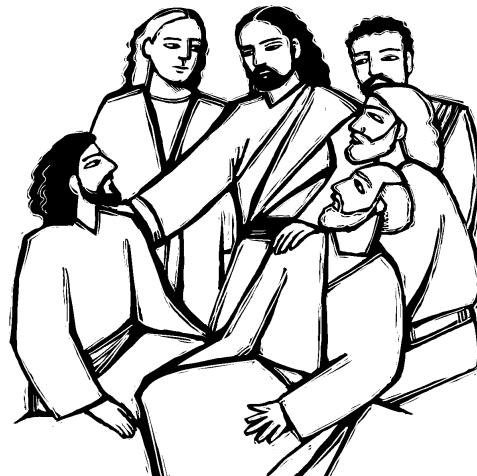
Office hours:
Not currently set

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
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Volume XXIX

Issue No. 2



**"Do not let your hearts be
troubled. Believe in God,
believe also in me."**

John 14:1 NRSV

February 2015