



Reflections

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Word Of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

February 2017

LOVE By Agnes D. Helsley

Most of us have seen the Shriners' Hospital television commercial with cute young children trying to define love. Their definitions cause us to smile. A clear definition of love was given by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. The ideal, not easy to follow, but still the ideal.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth, it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease, where there are tongues they will be stilled, where there is knowledge it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part but when perfection comes the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child,

thought like a child. I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part, then I shall know fully even as I am fully known. And now these three things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

This is Jesus' model of love. This is the love he lived out before his disciples. Check out John 17:18 and John 20:21. Pretty awesome! Jesus commissions his disciples (and those of us who follow): Just as the Father has sent Jesus, Jesus sends his followers.

In a recent issue of a senior magazine I was surprised to find an editorial reflecting on life relationships in a really wise fashion. The writer was saying there are many people whom God puts in our lives for various reasons. Some are there briefly and then leave.

We might miss them and wonder about them, but life goes on. Others will leave tracks on our hearts and the tracks will remain. Those people will always be part of us and our lives. We may hurt when we lose them, but we need to be thankful for having had them for however long God allowed.

As for those who are with us now, don't wait. Let them know how much we love and appreciate them! He wisely advises us: have faith, love deeply and always, always forgive!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ROOTS	2
PRAYER GROUPS	4
SQUIRELL	5
BE NOT AFRAID	6
OWNED BY GOD	6
PRAYER BRUNCH	7

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ROOTS

By Sr. Ann Shields

Recently in our parish here in Ann Arbor, Michigan, there was a prophecy given at the Friday evening prayer meeting. I am quoting what, I think, are the most significant sections of the prophecy:

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by running water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when the heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought for it does not cease to bear fruit. (Jer. 17:7f)

My people, you have been living for many years in a time of unprecedented grace, when the river of My Spirit has been flowing freely: strong, wide, abundant, shining in the light. But I tell you most solemnly, my people, that the day is coming soon---is even now at the door---when this river will go underground. It will still be present---strong and powerful---indeed even more powerful than before---but it will be found only by those who stretch out their roots toward it in the darkness: in humility, faith, and trust.

Those who do so will remain green when the heat comes, bearing witness to my grace and love. They will continue to bear fruit even in the midst of the drought, fruit that I will be able to harvest to feed the many who will be starving for My Love.

Act now to sink your roots deep in Me, in humility and faith and trust, so that when the day of drought comes, you may not just stand but flourish for the sake of yourselves, your families and friends, and the many I would bring to Myself through you. Take seriously this word, My people, for the time is almost at hand, even at the door. Put your trust in Me. Put all your trust in Me. Blessed is the man or woman who puts ALL his trust in Me.”

Many of you who have known me through the years have heard me on numerous occasions refer to this analogy of the strong trees whose roots do down deep in the soil to find water. Such trees are powerful because of the work of the root system and are thus often able to endure the storms without cracking or breaking...I have likened that image to each of us and our roots of faith. *How deep are they?* When the storms of life come, as they often do, we must be prepared to stand firm, to endure the storm, and to come out strong, whole, and ready to nourish others who are younger or whose faith is weak.

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 5, there is similar analogy in which Jesus, speaking of the grapevine, tells His disciples: “*As the branch cannot bear fruit unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in Him, he it is who bears much fruit for apart from me, you can do nothing*” (Jn. 15:4-5)

How do we abide in the vine?

How do our roots become strong and deep?

How do we draw our nourishment from Him?

The prophecy speaks of **Humility**. In this context, it means that we truly put all our trust in God, and not in self. I cannot make myself good. Only God can. I cannot be humble by myself; I need to learn that my peace, my hope, my faith, and my confidence only come about as I put God in the center of my life. (And take myself out of the center.) That needs practice daily---or, in my case, many times a day.

The prophecy also speaks of the need for **Faith** to allow the foundation of our lives to be rooted in Him and not in self. The gift of faith is given to us in baptism and is strengthened as a powerful gift for all of life in Confirmation.

Continued on page 3

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ROOTS - CONTINUED

Do I nourish my faith?

Do I nourish the grace of the sacraments?

*Am I grateful to God for the
faith He has given me?*

Do I actively and daily "sink" my roots in Him?

*Is my faith the foundation of my life or only a
"brick" in the same foundation?*

A definition of faith that I use as
a measurement stick is this:

*"Faith is confident assurance concerning what
we hope for and conviction about
the things we do not see" (Heb. 11:1).*

(Read all of Hebrews 11 and 12.)

Ask God for help! He will be only too glad to
give if you seek with a sincere heart.

Do I think about heaven?

*Do I spend time regularly examining my
conscience and confessing my sins so
that I may quickly see the face of
My Father in heaven when I die?*

Ask God for a hunger and a thirst for heaven. It
means union with the source of ALL LOVE---
that is what we were made for.

TRUST. Psalm 40:1-4 says, *"I waited patiently
for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the
miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making
my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God. Many will see and
fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is
the man who makes the Lord His trust, who does
not turn to the proud, to those who go astray
after false gods."*

FAITH, HUMILITY AND TRUST

Use these tools to make an examination of
conscience now, so that, should we enter a
greater storm than we have already seen, we may

be prepared and ready---our roots down deep in
the mind and heart of Christ, where courage,
wisdom, and mercy abound. As we nourish these
virtues, and meditate on God's truths, we can
watch the merciful power of God's love expand
our hearts.

*"Fear not, little flock. It has pleased your
Father to give you the Kingdom."*

(Lk. 12:32-34)

(Source: Renewal Ministries newsletter, January 2017)

Asking for your help

The editor of this newsletter is
asking all readers to strongly
consider contributing articles. I
believe that there are people reading
this publication who have writing
ability and could provide articles
that would edify those who
subscribe. I'm not asking you to
submit every month, but as often as
you can. Please pray about this, and
let me know what you might be able
to do.

Thank you.

Jack Heintzel, Editor

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HEALING MASS

Our Lady of Peace Church
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM
First Wednesday of the month

CONTEMPORARY MASS

Every Sunday 11:00 AM
St. Joseph Church /
Bread of Life Community
Children's Liturgy of the Word

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Bread of Life Chapel
St. Joseph Community Center

CHAPLET OF MERCY

Every day 3:00 PM
Bread of Life Chapel

ST. JOSEPH NOVENA

Every Wednesday 7:00 PM
St. Joseph Church /
Bread of Life Community

NO MEMORIALS

“True charity consists in bearing with all the defects of our neighbors, in not being surprised at their failings, and in being edified by their least virtues. Charity ought to enlighten and make joyful not only those who are dearest to me, but all who are in the house.”

- St. Therese of Lisieux

PRAYER GROUPS

† SUNDAY

Shalom in Jesus Prayer Group

In home 6:30 PM
Rick Kenawell (814) 375-0328
DuBois, PA

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West Lake Rd. & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel (814) 838-1325

† TUESDAY:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM
Pat Montefiori (814) 823-3968

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10 AM – 12 Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519

† THURSDAY:

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon (814) 836-4165

St. Boniface PG

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

† MONDAY:

Disciples of the Holy Spirit

St. Mary's Church Annex 6:00 PM
139 Church St.,
St. Marys, PA
Mary Ellen Frank (814) 781-3904

St. Andrew Chapel

(formerly Leopold Center group)

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
1116 West 7th St.
3:15 pm (after Mass)
Mary Lou Peterson (814) 866-5678

River of Life PG

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

† WEDNESDAY:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00 PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA

† FRIDAY:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting
Call for location 7:00 PM
T.A. Walkiewicz (814) 833-9717



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



SQUIRREL By Amy Mosbacher

"I was in the middle of telling this really funny story when all... squirrel!" For those of you who have seen Disney's movie "Up!" you know exactly what I'm talking about. While in the middle of a conversation a dog is suddenly distracted by a squirrel, stops the conversation and points, yelping out "Squirrel!" Often now I see so many references to this. It seems to have become an acceptable way of interjecting a completely off-topic thought. Good or bad, it's just the way it is.

While having "squirrel" moments are sometimes humorous, how often do they completely make us lose focus on our goals, or even the direction of our conversation? There are times when distraction can be good, like if we're trying to ignore pain or we're trying to break a habit.

"When distraction enables us to get through a difficult moment, withstand a temptation, or it simply offers us a break to recharge our resources so that, in the long run, we perform and feel

better, it can absolutely be considered healthy." (Katherine Schreiber). But more often distraction pulls us away from the task at hand. It's rather like having a destination on a trip and instead of taking the most direct route we take all these little side roads. Not to say there's anything wrong with the scenic view, but if we lose sight of our goal we might get lost, even to the point of wandering aimlessly. I wonder at how many people wander in life without knowing they're lost? They look, searching to fill up their lives with whatever makes them happy, and they've forgotten that Jesus will give them everything they desire.

Imagine if, when Jesus was lost in the Temple and Mary and Joseph were searching for Him, they had become distracted. There were a lot of other people around; they could have started talking. Or perhaps vendors selling their wares called them in? They might have gotten back on the path quickly at first, but then other things called their attention

elsewhere. Then slowly it might take longer and longer to get back to their mission, so long they that might they have said, Where were we going? and just started wandering from place to place. Jesus might never have been found! Fortunately for us they were diligent; how could they lose sight of a beloved Son? Now ask ourselves, could we lose sight of Him? Jesus, whom our hearts love?

Keeping Jesus in our sight, having Him as first place in our lives, can be so hard in our materialistic society. Surrounding ourselves with reminders - a crucifix on the wall, a rosary in the pocket, a picture on our desk - can help refocus our attention. And if we find ourselves drifting during prayer we shouldn't be discouraged. We should just gather the distracting thoughts, offer them to Jesus, and focus again. Saying "He and I" or "we" and "us" will keep God in our thoughts during the day. It's so much easier not to lose sight of someone if we're walking beside him, holding his hand. It's the same with God. Hold on tight - our lives depend on it!

Through the Seasons with Jesus and Mary

written by : Amy Mosbacher, a faithful contributor to this publication.

Starting with Advent and traveling through the liturgical year, this book can help you experience the excitement, and the ordinariness, of the events which shaped Christianity and the world. Amy shares how even the smallest events can be infused with the Holy Spirit. *Through the Seasons* can help all of us to surrender to the transforming fire of God's love. I have been touched by reading this book, and I suggest you try it to see how you might better experience God's love and find your place in the ultimate love story. If you have enjoyed Amy's monthly articles in this publication, you will enjoy this book.

The price of a single copy is \$13.95 (paperback). To purchase a copy, contact Amy by phone at 814-724-6104 or by email at amy.mosbacher@catholic-meadville.org. For any readers who are in charge of buying in bulk for their organizations, Amy can offer it at reduced prices: \$5.50 each for 500 copies, \$3.90 for 1,000 copies, and \$2.85 for 2,000 copies. The books could be given as gifts or used as handouts. If anyone is interested, you can contact Amy for more information.

Be Not Afraid: “Jesus I Trust in You”

By Kathy Wilcox

We are living in an unusual period of history. The Internet has opened a window to the world, allowing us to be constantly bombarded with an ongoing barrage of news. The media (Internet, television and print) has also been shown to sometimes be unreliable as a source of truth. Sorting out truth from fiction is a challenge. So we are left with several questions: what and who are we to believe? How can we cope with the fear that is the result of the chaos and violence?

How we deal with all this presents a real test of our faith. First of all, we need to remember that fear; violence and lies do not come from God. The Bible refers to “the spirit of fear” because fear comes from Satan. We are reminded by St Paul in 2 Timothy 1:7: *For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice (fear) but rather of power and love and self-control.* We are further taught by John, who calls Satan a murderer who is the source of violence. And in John 8:44, he states that Satan “*is a liar and the father of lies.*”

It is wise to stay grounded in Scripture, to have a strong prayer life, and to heed the guidance coming from our faith leaders. Saint Pope John Paul II promoted the devotion of the Divine Mercy Chaplet on April 30, 2000, when he proclaimed Faustina Kowalska a saint and designated the Sunday after Easter the Sunday of the Divine Mercy.

Why is this important? If you are not familiar with Saint Faustina, she was a young, uneducated nun

in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations from our Lord. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*.

What is significant is that the primary element of the Divine Mercy message is that we should place our trust in Jesus. “*Jesus, I trust in You*” is the prayer that is repeated often in the chaplet. Saint John Paul tied his papal message, “Be Not Afraid,” to Saint Faustina’s chaplet, explaining that when we abandon ourselves to Jesus we will not fear. He added: “Why should we have no fear? Because man has been redeemed by God. ... the power of Christ’s Cross and Resurrection is greater than any evil which man could or should fear” (his message *Threshold of Hope*, 1994).

We need to turn away from the barrage of negative information and, and as Saint John Paul counsels,

BE NOT AFRAID.

And, as Saint Faustina taught, pray

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.

OWNED BY GOD

By Jack Heintzel

1 Cor. 6:19b

*“You are not your own;
you were bought with a price.”*

Let us consider this important thought: We are slaves, either slaves of sin or slaves of God. Our Lord is calling us to surrender our lives to Him. So we must understand what our life will be like in God’s kingdom. He has set us free from slavery to sin, and He wants us to be happy in Him. But He calls us to give up our right to self. Our surrender allows us to serve Him, to fit into His plan, and thus to experience the fullness of His life.

Oswald Chambers, in his book *My Utmost for His Highest*, states that for Christian there is no such thing as a private life. This sounds harsh at first reading. But remember, we are slaves now in the kingdom of the King of Kings. Are not slaves *totally* at the beck and call of their Master? Isn’t a slave owned by his master? Doesn’t a slave always put his master first, before his own wants and desires? He must serve the master first.

Chambers tells us that our lives must be based on rugged reality. We must get to the point at which we do not care what becomes of us individually, as long as God gets His way for the purpose of His redemptive plan

Continued on page 7

OWNED BY GOD, Continued

Chambers puts it this way: “Why shouldn’t we go through heartbreaks? Most of us fall and collapse at the first grip of pain; we sit down on the threshold of God’s purpose and die away of self-pity.”

But God continues to form us for His purpose, if we let Him. We will have problems, but if through a broken heart God can bring His purposes to pass in

the world, then we should thank Him for breaking our hearts.

In Galatians 2:20 Paul says he has been crucified with Christ. These words mean, for each of us, the breaking of our independence and surrender to the supremacy of the Lord Jesus. We must be broken from our preoccupation with self, and once that point is reached the reality of our oneness with Christ is reached.

We are then “crucified with Christ.” The passion of Christianity is that we *deliberately* sign away our own rights and become a bond slave of Jesus Christ. Until we do that, we do not begin to be a saint.

We need to decide if we will allow God to help Himself to us, or whether we will be taken up with our own conception of what we are going to be. We must decide if God owns us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Teens and Older—Men and Women

**Prayer Brunch
Saturday, March 11, 2017**

9:30 AM — 12:00 PM
St. Joseph’s Bread of Life
147 West 24th St. Erie PA

Cost \$8.50 per person

Reservations are required by March 6, 2017

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL:

Word of Life Center — (814) 824-1286
T.A. Walkiewicz — (814) 833-9717

**GOD LOVES YOU TOO MUCH TO
LEAVE YOU WHERE YOU ARE**

Speakers: John & Judy Skuce

John and Judy live in Harborcreek and attend our Lady of Mercy Church. They have been married for 56 years, have four children, ten grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

They made Cursillo, are involved with marriage encounter, and made a Life in The Spirit Seminar. Their current challenge is living with Alzheimer’s

**John and Judy will be sharing their personal
testimony of their spiritual journey.**

Registration: Prayer Brunch - Saturday, March 11, 2017

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Monday, March 6, 2017

Name _____

Address: _____

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it is not easily angered
keeps no record of wrongs
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rejoices with the truth
always protects
always trusts
always hopes
always perseveres
never fails

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

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The office is generally open on
Wednesday and/or Thursday only.

Please call before coming.

The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide teaching, news and calendar of events, which help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Diocese of Erie.

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