



Reflections

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

January 2014

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

The coming of Jesus

By Amy Mosbacher

“Where did you see Jesus this past week?” I asked my CCD class. They’re much better at coming up with answers now, a month into class. The first time I asked, most of the kids were clueless. They weren’t used to seeing Jesus in their everyday lives. But in order to make CCD interesting and relevant for them class has to be more than a history lesson. Yes, Jesus lived 2000 years ago, but He can’t stay there.

The first time Jesus came was to a poor couple in a manger, and then to a limited few He touched in His lifetime. That’s the history we have to know. How did Jesus behave in ordinary life with the people He came into contact with? What was the message He preached and why?

We teach Jesus will come again and for the kids to look forward to His coming. But the future is an unknown, and hard for kids, or adults, to grasp. What does that matter to us now? I can tell my class that someday in their lives they might need Jesus because no one else will do, no one else will understand or be able to help in the way God can. But that doesn’t make much sense to them now.

There’s a third time that Jesus comes to us which matters most: today. We don’t recognize Him,

though. He comes incognito, or what Mother Teresa calls the distressing disguise of the poor. We teach kids to be generous to the needy and put food in the church pantries or to donate clothes for the less fortunate. Doing those things is good, but in their daily school/family lives where do they come into contact with anyone other than their own demographics? I try to teach them that when they make a card for their grandparents or help Mom carry groceries in, that’s touching Jesus, too. Mother Teresa called it the Gospel on five fingers: “You, did, it, to, me.” Do we recognize Jesus in the new co-worker who knows no one or the mom who could use a babysitter? What about the harried teacher trying to be patient or the lonely elderly person waiting for just one visit? The way God’s Kingdom is among us now is shown by how we treat the people in our everyday lives. We honor God when we love in Jesus’ name and spread His Gospel through our interactions. But since most people today aren’t taught to be on the lookout for Jesus, we miss Him and think He’s just some dusty figure from the past, not relevant today.

In my class I try to get the kids to think of Jesus being very alive in

the people around us. That’s how Jesus wants us to think, and the only way Christianity will make a difference. I know many people who would be happy if God were someone they learned about when they were young and then put on the back shelf, not to interfere with real life. However, when these CCD kids are older and going through bigger trials than they can currently imagine, God’s not going to suddenly appear in their lives and make a difference unless they know how to recognize Him now.

Jesus wants to come to us today. Will we let Him?

“One of the signs of Spirit-led people is that their lives are full, worthwhile and never boring; they have an intuition for the Holy Spirit in the pulse of daily experience, not just in the mountaintop epiphanies, but in the suffering of the Valley of Tears. That requires honest commitment to ordinary events and ordinary people.”

Theologian Anthony Gittins,
CSSp

Centering in

By Liz Geary

- **Pledge appeal**

I would like to thank those of you who have already sent in your pledge commitments and initial payments for 2014. If you have not sent in a pledge agreement for 2014 and would like to do so, it is not too late! The Center's 2014 budget includes \$15,000 in pledges to balance. If pledges are received over this amount, the Center would like to purchase a laptop computer. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the pledge process, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Center. I would humbly ask everyone to pray about their level of financial commitment to the ministry of Word of Life Center for 2014.

A full financial report of fiscal year 2013 will be made available at the Center's combined membership and volunteer appreciation dinner. The Center staff and volunteers are grateful for your expressions of love and encouragement during the year. May God bless you with His peace, love, joy, good health and prosperity during the new year.

- **Newsletter Support**

If you have not sent in your 2014 subscription for *Reflections*, it is not too late to do so. You can still send a check or cash to the Center and write "newsletter support" in the memo line or on a slip of paper with your payment. The Center incurs a cost of approximately \$10 for each newsletter subscription, so any help that

you could give to help defray this expense would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks to those who have already sent in their newsletter support for 2014.

- **Spring prayer brunch**

Please save the date for the 2014 spring prayer brunch to be held at the St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center. I hope to see everyone on Saturday, March 22nd at 9:30 AM. The tentative dates for the summer and fall prayer brunches are Saturday, June 21st and Saturday, October 25th, respectively. They will also be held at St. Joe's/BOL Community Center. Please mark your calendars with those dates as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at all three brunches for 2014.

- **Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church**

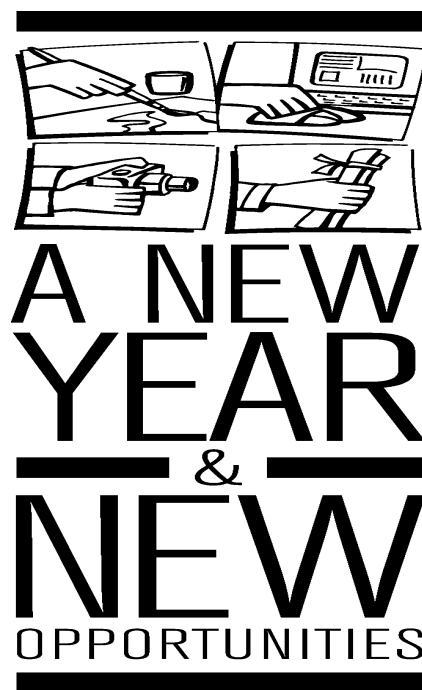
We have now said "good-bye" to 2013, the Year of Faith, and introduce the Year of Charisms and Grace for 2014. As part of celebrating the year of Charisms and Grace, I invite everyone to use the resource materials at the Center in order to re-introduce you to the graces brought about by the charisms. There are numerous books and pamphlets at the Center that will help you to better understand and celebrate this year. Of particular interest might be Renée Marazon's Charism Inventory workbook. Please call or e-mail the office to schedule an appointment, and the office staff can show you what is available.

- **Membership/volunteer appreciation dinner**

The Center will be combining the volunteer appreciation dinner and the membership dinner into one event for 2014. Invitations will be mailed to those who qualify as members or those who volunteered during the 2013 calendar year.

As a reminder, the Word of Life Renewal Center by-laws define a member as "any person who (a) supports the Center on a yearly basis by monetary gifts and/or pledges, (b) is the liaison to the Bishop, or (c) is a member of the Board of Directors."

The dinner will take place on Sunday, January 19th at St. Mark Catholic Center. There will be a presentation of the vision for the Center for 2014. The year-end financial statement for 2013 will also be presented. We will also use this time to officially welcome Fr. David Poulson as the new liaison. More details will be available within the mailed invitations.



Year of charisms and grace for the church

By Jane Barz, Pentecost Today (edited for Reflections)

In preparation for the Renewal's Jubilee celebration in 2017, the National Service Committee and the other National Leadership Groups entered into a five-year journey to the Jubilee. The first step of this process, a Time of Life-Giving Repentance, lasted from June 1 to December 31, 2012. In 2013 we were engaged in a Year of Spirit-Filled Faith in concert with the Year of Faith called for by Pope Benedict XVI.

In January of 2014, we invite you to enter into a "Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church." Our goals for this year are three-fold:

First, we will explore the Charismatic Renewal's identity as an ecclesial movement. The Renewal in itself is a grace for the Church. We want to foster baptism in the Holy Spirit as grace for the New Evangelization.

We recommend (1) Deeper reflection and conversation among Renewal leaders and participants about the Renewal's identity as a movement given to the Church. (2) Development and presentation of appropriate teachings on the Renewal's identity by Renewal leaders at all levels.

Second, we want to celebrate being fully Catholic (ecclesial maturity) and fully charismatic. Being fully Catholic means not only knowing our Catholic faith by studying Sacred Scripture and

the Catechism of the Catholic Church, but living, praying, and celebrating it.

We recommend (1) Examination of one's life in the Spirit, in terms of being fully Catholic and fully charismatic, by Renewal participants. (2) Examination of the Renewal elements for which they are responsible by Renewal leaders at all levels, for its maturity and the fostering of the full role of the Holy Spirit.

Third, we want to promote greater and more mature use of the charisms. One of the great gifts of the Renewal has been the re-awakening of the full spectrum of charisms as listed in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. The second Vatican Council affirmed the existence and importance of charisms "for the renewal and building up of the Church." (*Lumen Gentium*)

We recommend (1) Reading books such as Baptism in the Holy Spirit. (2) Teaching and encouraging the exercise of the full spectrum of charisms by Renewal leaders, not only in Renewal activities but also in daily life, and helping participants to identify their charisms and to use them more powerfully and effectively.

(Ed. Note: Jane Barz is Bishop's Liaison to the Renewal in the Sioux Falls Diocese and a member of the National Service Committee.)

National Charismatic Retreat

Registration is now open for the National Charismatic Retreat to be held in Malvern, PA on June 27-29, 2014. It will be held in the Malvern Retreat House near Philadelphia. It promises to be a powerful event for participants. The presenters will be:

- EWTN's Jesse Romero, a former kickboxer and founder of *On Fire Evangelism*. He preaches all over the world on *Standing Up for Jesus*. He will challenge all retreatants to a renewal of faith convictions.

- Kathleen McCarthy, President of *In His Sign Radio Network*, author and renowned preacher with healing gifts.

- Fr. Larry Hess, also known as the "Healing Prayer Card" priest. Millions of prayer cards have been distributed throughout the world. He is now a pastor in Reading, PA.

More information on this can be obtained by calling 610-644-0400. The cost is \$235 per person, including all meals and private room.



Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace

2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday January 2

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

Requested by

James Dwyer
Dale Hamilton
Mary Ann Ranser
Rev. Richard McGuire
Ruth Carney
Jackie Fontecchio

Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
" " " "
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David and Mary Louise Capan

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.

**"The highest reward for a person's toil
is not what they get for it,
but what they become by it."**

John Ruskin

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
Jan. 5,12,19,26

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
Jan. 5,12,19,26

† 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
Mon. 6,13,20,27

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
Jan. 6,13,20,27
(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
Jan. 13, 27

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
Jan. 7,14,21,28

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
Jan. 7,14,21,28

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
Jan. 8,15,22,29

† Thursday:

**St. Joseph Church Bread of Life
Prayer Meeting** 7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connolly (814) 866-0505
Jan.2,9,16,23,30 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
John Griebel 825-3588
Jan. 2,9,16,23,30

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
Jan. 9

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
Jan. 3,10,17,24,31

Some goals for 2014

By Agnes D. Helsley

Remember when December 31, 1999 rolled over into January 1, 2000? Amazingly, we are now into 2014. We survived the Y2K scare. Our technology did not go underwater, and we have climbed even larger mountains. Scripture tells us that God's mercies are new every morning; great is His faithfulness. Are we growing more faithful in following God? It's time to check our progress in living for the glory of His name.

We are called to be His ambassadors, so we reflect on how effectively we have hidden His Word in our heart so that we may not sin against Him. In a recent devotional it was pointed out that on that fateful day, November 22, 1963, when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, another leader passed into eternal life. That person was Clive Staples Lewis. Most of us know him as C. S. Lewis. Many of us have been blessed by the writings of this former atheist who became a Christian, and who truly lived a life of witness to his heavenly Father. Few of us will have the opportunity to influence as many people as Lewis did, but we can be witnesses in our own circumstances to those God puts in our life.

In 2013 one practice I resumed is journaling. It has been inspiring to express thanksgiving for many blessings, to confess failures, and to seek strength for changes necessary for a closer walk, following the Spirit's leading. We make it complicated, but God's directives are simple. In Micah 6:8, the Spirit of God tells us, "He has showed you, O man, what is good, and what does the Lord

require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." If we guard our hearts with diligence (for from it flows the wellsprings of life) and make another scripture a guidepost for our lives, we will be better witnesses to God's glory. I am referring to Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." Thus His word becomes a "lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Ps. 119:105)

Life is tough, but we have a God who is always watching over us. We just have to keep looking up! Let us all try to serve as successful ambassadors who know that we truly are citizens of another world. We see in 2 Cor. 5:18f that "All this is from God, who reconciles us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."



From humble beginnings

In 1804, William, a 21-year-old from a poor family, decided to go to New York City to find a job. He told a neighbor his plans, saying he knew how to make soap and might work in a soap factory.

The neighbor said, "Just remember to be a good man, give your heart to Christ and pay the Lord all that belongs to him. Give a dime of every dollar you make, make an honest soap and you will be a happy and wealthy man."

Sure enough, William found a job making soap. Later, he became part owner and then sole owner of the business. His product line – and giving – expanded greatly. He gave many millions of dollars to the Lord's work throughout the world, far more than 10 percent of his wealth.

William Colgate died in 1857 at age 74, but his legacy and company, Colgate-Palmolive, still thrive.

"Stationary Time"

We are frequently thinking
That time's running fast.
The present seems fleeting
And soon becomes past

But time is a measurement
Standing quite still.
It's we who are moving
Or stopped, by our will.

Peggy Ferrell

Pope Francis: making headlines

By Kathy Wilcox

Our Pope Francis is making headlines, almost every day. "Time" magazine has decided that he is the man of the year. The responses are wide and varied. Some are wildly cheering him, others are highly critical. So what has he said or done to cause these explosive reactions? Critics are angry not because he has reached out in love to all, especially the poor, but that he has also included those with gender issues, atheists, Muslims, and now even Marxists. Legalists within our own Catholic Church feel he has negated certain church teaching, and has alienated some at odds with church teaching. Others are praising him, seeing Jesus in his actions.

So what is he really doing? Further digging reveals that he has not deviated from Church teachings or made any changes in doctrines on any of these issues. He has simply reached out with Christ's love to everyone. He is also teaching that it is not our job to confront the sin in others. He is saying that until someone encounters the pure love of Christ, and embraces that love, that person cannot see his or her own sins and be converted. Only then can he or she experience the loving forgiveness of Jesus and come into the fold of believers.

The first major encyclical by Francis, on March 13th, 2013, is a brief Sunday sermon given at the Vatican parish church of Saint Anne. "The message of Jesus is mercy. For me, I say this humbly, it is the Lord's most powerful message." He went on to say that we are often "ready to condemn rather than accept; able to judge,

but not to bend down on the miseries of humanity."

His visibility also puts all Catholics in the spotlight or under a microscope. What do others see when they look at me? I am acquainted with people of many faiths. However, when I am with them it is not a denomination that I see ... it is the person's actions. I have a friend who knows the Bible forward and backward. She deeply desires to bring others to Christ; she is quick to confront others with "Are you saved?" and quote scripture in her zeal to evangelize. But this same person will complain about her order to a waitress if it is not exactly up to her expectations, for example if her food is lukewarm instead of hot.

I need to look in the mirror when I point my finger; is this how I am acting? Am I confrontational or loving? Am I critical or willing to overlook the missteps of others? Are my actions mirroring Jesus or those of the accuser?

My New Year's resolution should be to read and follow a certain Scripture passage every day. It is John 21:15-17 in which Jesus asks me, as He asked Peter, "Do you love me?" If I say that I do, then Jesus commands me to lovingly care for others.

As the Jars of Clay song reminds us, "They will know we are Christians by our love." Period.



the new year

A winning pattern for

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

"You will never be sorry for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all."

Now is the time

We live in troubling times, with wars, poverty, hunger, economic woes, health scares and more. So what now?

Believe this: We Christians will survive the test! Faith, prayer, and discipline will bring us victory. Our love for God, our need for worship, a good Christian education, and a joyous fellowship will ultimately prevail.

A pastor who worked in a city's poverty-stricken area was asked how his work was going. He answered: "It is a hand-to-mouth existence: God's hand providing for our mouths." So it may be for many churches and people today. But God promises to see us through.

Prayer Meetings – Elements and Stages

By Jack Heintzel

This is taken from a Charismatic Leadership Development Course in 1991. The songs mentioned in the chart are old ones that you may or may not know. But a Charismatic prayer meeting generally has these elements. This can be a useful guide in your gathering. Hope it helps your group.

<u>Stages</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Types of songs</u>
Gathering	Coming together in mind and spirit, getting “in the mood.”	Lively: Ex. “This is the Day”
Joy	Directing our hearts and minds toward God; spiritual joy; lifting burdens to God; focusing on God’s joy and power.	Songs to lift the heart and dismiss anxiety: Ex. “The Joy of the Lord” or “I’ve Got A River of Life”
Thanksgiving	Heightens awareness of God’s presence in our lives; focusing on positive effect of grace in our daily lives; seeing events through God’s eyes; thanking Him for using all things to the good.	Expressing thanks to God. Ex. “I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord” or “How Great is Our God”
Praise	Opening ourselves to God’s presence; proclaiming the goodness and greatness of God and His attributes; releases us into supernatural dimension.	Describe God and His goodness. Ex. “Praise the Name of Jesus”
Worship	Experiencing God’s presence; adoration of God as He manifests His presence; intimate union with God. <i>The goal of the prayer meeting.</i>	Help us in worship & adoration. Ex. “Thou Art Worthy” or “Father, I Adore You”
Ministry to one another	This part could be earlier in the meeting, as appropriate.	Touch hearts and lead individuals to deeper commitment to Jesus. Ex. “Amazing Grace” “Seek Ye First”.
Closing	Moving out of prayer meeting mode.	Lively; Ex. “Our God Reigns” Or “Lift High the Banner of Love”

Source: “Leadership Development Course” by Ron Ryan 1991

A New Year’s desire

Goodbye, old year

Old year! Upon the Stage of time
You stand to bow your last adieu;
A moment, and the
prompter’s chime
Will ring the curtain down on you.



Grant that I may bring no tear to any
eye,
When this New Year in time shall
end.
Let it be said I’ve played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored
here,
And made of it a happy year.

Edgar A. Guest

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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

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*Nations shall come to your
light, and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



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