



Reflections

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

January 2015

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

Walking with God

By Jack Heintzel

"...walking in His ways and revering Him." Deut. 8:6

In this Scripture from the Old Testament, Moses exhorts the Israelites to walk with God and keep His commandments. Much later, after the Father sent Jesus to walk among God's people, Jesus baptized them in the Holy Spirit. Now they had a better way to walk with God, in the power of the Spirit. And that's where we are.

What does it mean to "walk" in this context? One dictionary definition is "to conduct oneself or behave in a particular manner; to live." This seems to be way the Bible defines walking – doing what God wants us to do. We are to live like Jesus did, in the full power of the Holy Spirit. In the October 12, 2014 issue of *FaithLife*, Pope Francis is quoted in a homily as follows: "Walking: our life is a journey and when we stop there is something wrong. Walking always, in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, seeking to live [blamelessly]."

In his book *Sit, Walk, Stand*, Chinese author Watchman Nee says this about walking: Sitting describes our position with Christ in the heavenlies as we learn to know Him and understand our mission. Walking is the practical

out-working of that heavenly position here on earth. He quotes the letter to the Ephesians (4:1-2) as follows: "I therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to and beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the calling to which you have been called (Ampl. Bible)." The Body of Christ is not something remote and unreal, to be expressed only in heavenly terms. It is very present and practical, finding the real test of our conduct in our relations with others. It is no use to just talk of a distant heaven. We have to bring heavenliness into our homes, offices, and shops.

Nee goes on: "The Christian's secret is his rest in Christ. His power derives from his God-given position. We sit forever with Christ that we may walk continuously before men." We must abide (remain patiently) in Him, and this ensures the power to walk worthy of Him. We are strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit within us, that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:16, 19). The operation of God's life in us is not in *our* power, not due to *our* efforts. The all-important rule is not to "try" (our efforts) but to "trust" (in God).

The life we live is by faith in Christ. As St. Paul says in Gal. 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Nee says that the moment we *really see* that fact we will end our struggling and get rid of our pretenses. We should allow ourselves to be made continuously full of the Holy Spirit, a state we are to be in all the time. The author uses the expression "be being filled." We should be allowing the Spirit to be continuously active in our lives. Everything we have comes through His grace. Let's live that way so God can truly use us. He needs ready instruments; the urgency of our times requires us to walk as His holy people of power.



Centering in

By Liz Geary

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 and we will gladly get one to you. 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 a pledge commitment 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. You continue to be in my prayers.

Office updates

The office of the Word of Life Renewal Center, along with the offices of St. Mark Catholic Center will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day. The Center will open on Wednesday, January 21st at the usual time. All offices will also be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of President's day. The Center will open Wednesday, February 18th at the usual time.

Spring prayer brunch

Please save the date of Saturday, April 25th for the spring prayer brunch sponsored by the Word of Life Renewal Center, being held at St. Joe's/BOL Community center from 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

2015 women's retreat

This is just a reminder that the 2015 women's charismatic retreat is scheduled for Friday, April 10th through Sunday, April 12th at the Riverside Inn at Cambridge Springs. I am pleased to announce that the retreat director and featured speaker will be Stacy Malesiewski (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. I will do my best to explain all the pricing options. Please save the date for the women's retreat and get your reservations and deposits in early.

Happy New Year

The staff of the Word of Life Renewal Center would like to wish everyone a happy and blessed new year! Please pray for us as we continue to pray for you in 2015.

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. We are invited to use the theme of unity in all of our events this year. The 50th Anniversary will take place in 2017, the year of Jubilee. As the Renewal, we are also invited to: reach out to all groups influenced by the charismatic renewal; endeavor to lay down our lives for each other; foster unity in the Renewal, with the Church, and ecumenism; and finally to focus on the importance of community. If you are interested in learning more about the call for unity in 2015, please contact the Center for more information and further explanation.

Good-bye Eileen

I would like to take this time to wish a happy retirement to the office manager for the Cursillo office, Eileen Gunter, (next door to the Word of Life Center at St. Mark Catholic Center.) Eileen officially retires on January 2nd. She is looking forward to spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren (along with some camping adventures.) You will be missed in the "Happy Hallway!" I wish you much peace and many blessings in your retirement.

More Adventure?

By Sandy Greggs

Someone once told me that I should live my life like an adventure. And, for the past ten years that's exactly what I've done.

In 2004, a year after my husband, Carl, died I moved to Wilmington, NC. After all I reasoned, since his passing, my life had changed significantly. Why not change it all the way?

I fell in love with Wilmington right away. With its sun-filled sky, the surfers riding the waves of the magnificent Atlantic Ocean and the casual life style. Shorts and flip flops were my uniform most of the year.

Of course even Paradise has its down side. The tropical storms came with pounding rain and wind that caused the palm trees to bow at the waist. The heat and high humidity made me feel like a chocolate bar left on the dashboard of my car. And how about those hurricanes that held me hostage with the ceaseless rain and the wind that blew in on its side turning somersaults at will.

Then opportunity came knocking again, and I moved to Payson, AZ. Payson is a "small town with a big heart" located 90 minutes north of Phoenix and almost a mile straight up. The winding uphill journey along Rt. 87 is breathtaking. What a sight to behold! The majestic mountains, the Saguaro Cactus and the panoramic horizon.

I moved into a cabin that by anyone's standards would be considered remote. My neighbors were elk, javelina (wild pigs), coyotes and an assortment of bugs and snakes. The Payson

Roundup (the local newspaper) was delivered twice a week. Not much news in a town that small.

While living there I experienced torrential downpours during the monsoon season. I breathed in smoke from nearby forest fires that turned the sun blood red. And the solitude I lived with was both peaceful and disturbing.

I returned to Erie in April, 2014 after hearing about the record breaking previous winter. Call me crazy, but I thought I was missing out on something. And then on August 15th I began the most daunting adventure of my life when I was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Not your idea of an adventure? I guess it's all how you look at it.

I have found that all adventures share common attributes. Some good--some not so good. There is always the unknown. What lies ahead? Am I ready for this? Do I have the courage to meet the challenge? There's discovery about surroundings, about people and about myself. And there is beauty. The beauty of family, friends and now medical professionals that support and encourage me and who are trying to make this present adventure a more gentle journey.

But most important of all, I have a faithful Companion who never leaves my side and who always accompanies me everywhere. He even somehow manages to already be at my destination when I arrive—welcoming me with open arms.

(Ed. note: Sandy was a founder of the St. Julia prayer group and part of the staff of the WOLC.)

For the dark times

Lighthouses are now a popular decorating theme for living rooms, calendars, cards, screen savers, towels and more. Many images are infused with shimmering light to symbolize Christian faith and hope.

Yet the purpose of a lighthouse isn't to look pretty against a sunny sky – although it does – but to illumine a ship's way beneath heavy, dark clouds or a moonless night. Indeed, the lighthouse itself doesn't even light up until its surroundings grow dark! Surely Jesus loves to share our joys, and we praise his glory during life's bright times. But God's primary purpose for coming to live among us was to save us from the storm of sin; to illumine our path through the darkness of death, in all its forms, to be the light guiding all people safely home. Jesus' light shines for us day and night, rain or shine, to bless us with faith and hope.

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 and the need for worship, Christian education and 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." God promises to see us through.

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday January 7, 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

Requested by

Helen Urmann
Mary Jane Spiker
Sr. Emilie Rose

Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
" " " "
" " " "

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.

**“Remember and never doubt it:
With God’s help you can do incredible things.
Never think down; always think up.”**

–Norman Vincent Peale

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
January 4,11,18,25

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
January 4,11,18,25

† 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
January 5,12,19,26

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
January 5,12,19,26
(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
January 12,26

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group
Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
January 6,13,20,27

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
January 6,13,20,27

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group
St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
January 7,14,21,28

† Thursday: Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
January 8

St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Prayer Meeting 7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connelly (814) 866-0505
January 1,8,15,22,29

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
John Griebel 825-3588
January 1,8,15,22,29

† Friday:

Light of the World Community
In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
January 2,9,16,23,30

Just what are indulgences?

By Amy Mosbacher

They are the things not spoken of, as if a taboo subject. Perhaps they hide out in dark alleys waiting to remind the casual passer-by of the Catholic Church's tainted history. Or maybe that's what some want to believe.

Indulgences are among the Church's great treasury of riches. According to the Catholic Catechism, *"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."* (1471). Indulgences don't wipe away the necessity of confession; sins must still be absolved by a priest. But they will remove a portion of the temporal punishment due to sin. A plenary indulgence removes the full punishment; a partial indulgence removes part of the punishment. (Partial is no longer counted in days, although after some prayers days are still referenced if you're reading an older edition.)

To understand the shadows which lie over indulgences, we need to explore a bit of history. Confession and penance used to be public acts, and penance was stiffer than our contemporary two Hail Marys. Depending on the severity, penance could have been required to be performed daily, weekly or monthly, taking the form of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, pilgrimages or, after a decree from the Council of

Clarmont (1095), participating in the Crusades. If one willingly undertook sacrifices in a state of grace, then they were granted an indulgence, or a reduction in the temporal punishment due their forgiven sins. It's easy to understand how misconceptions grew. Those not favorable to Church teaching claimed it was a way of raising money or that people were buying their way out of hell, among other accusations. Indulgences became a way of smearing the Catholic Church, and one excuse for Martin Luther's theses tacked on the door of Wittenburg's cathedral. In an effort to clear up false ideas, Pope Pius V in 1567 outlawed indulgences that had anything to do with money. However, once a fire starts it's hard to quench. There are some who like to persist in error.

The truth about indulgences is that the Church grants them most generously to any soul who is serious about receiving them. In our lives we can't help but build up a debt to God's justice; we are sinful beings and Jesus said that every word must be accounted for. If we had to pay off our debt entirely in Purgatory we might never leave! Instead the Church grants us a multitude of simple ways to make up for our sins. St. Thomas Aquinas said, "He who gains an indulgence is not thereby released outright from what he owes as penalty, but is provided with the means of paying it." An indulgence is not confession, and spiritual effort is still required to obtain them. A person must be in a state of grace, go to confession and receive communion, and pray for the pope's intentions. Then he

must do the actual act that gains the indulgence, whether it's a specific prayer, alms or visit to a church, etc. God's grace is so accessible. Let's not deprive ourselves of it!

Meadville healing Mass

There will be a healing Mass on Monday,



January 19, 2015 at St. Agatha Church in Meadville, PA. The time is 6 PM, and Fr. David Poulson will preside. Everyone is welcome.

"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

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.

— Robert W. Service

Fear not, for I am with you!

By Kathy Wilcox

As we start another year, I will be the first one to admit that I can be frightened when I see what is happening in the world. Fear is a mental, emotional and physical response whenever we feel threatened. I recently had a very real encounter that taught me some lessons about fear.

It was a cold, snowy night and my husband was sick so I offered to take garbage can out to the road. As I neared the end of our long driveway, the neighbor's large white dog suddenly charged out of the snow at me, snarling viciously. I yelled for her to go home, but she only got nearer and more threatening. I turned to go back to the house, and said desperately, "Guardian angel, why aren't you helping me?" The answer came immediately. "YOU need to command Satan to be gone in Jesus name." So I did not turn around; I just said the words, and kept walking. Suddenly I heard whimpering, and the dog left me. It was that easy.

So what really happened? First of all, because the dog is a neighbor dog, I foolishly did not realize that Satan would use her to attack me. Second, I allowed myself to be frightened. I need to keep my focus on Jesus and not allow myself to be tempted in this way. Third, I did not use the spiritual gifts that I have been given, until my guardian angel reminded me to do so. But the most important lesson I learned is that Satan was able to try to frighten me by snarling and barking until I asked for protection and demanded that Satan leave.

So, what is the best way to deal with fear, and satanic temptations and attack?

1. Recognize that Satan is hard at work, but like the dog he can only snarl and growl. He has no power over God's people unless we allow him into our lives with sinful behavior.
2. Make frequent use of the sacraments of the church which will keep us in a state of grace and fully covered by the blood of Jesus.
3. Put on the Armor of God every day. (Ephesians 6: 10-18.)
4. Designate a place in our home for prayer, and spend time every day in prayer. Suggestions: the rosary; the Taking Authority Prayer; reading scripture and praying in tongues.
5. Have blessed items in our homes and wear a blessed article, either a medal or scapular.
6. Use the gifts we have been given and whenever necessary, command Satan to be gone - In Jesus name!

These are scary times but God has promised His protection and strength.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)



Therefore put on the
full armor of God ...

EPHESIANS 6:13, NIV

The Gift

By Jean Heintzel

Heavenly Father, I thank You
for the gift of this day.

May I open it carefully
And savor each moment as
A precious part of this gift.

As I open it, it appears to be a
puzzle

With pieces marked
'joys,' 'sorrows,' 'works,'
'burdens,'
'quiet times,' 'busy times.'

May I carefully assembly these
pieces

To create a beautiful gift
To present to You at the end of
this day.

Remind me that ALL the pieces
are necessary for this project.

I cannot discard ANY of them
No matter how difficult
Or dark they might seem.

Help me to remember that dark
colors

Accent or bring out the light
ones.

They are ALL necessary
To complete the puzzle,
Your gift to me

To the members....

The Word of Life Center is governed by a Board of Directors, as determined by the WOLC By-Laws. The Board has appointed an Executive Committee, consisting of the Chair (Fr. David Poulson), the Vice Chair (Jack Heintzel), the Corporate Secretary (T.A. Walkiewicz), the Treasurer (Mary Beth Whitman), and the Administrator (Liz Geary). Fr. Poulson, as the Bishop's appointed liaison to the Diocesan Charismatic Renewal, is the overall head of this non-profit corporation. Our mission is to do what the Bishop directs in leading the Diocesan Renewal. The Board meets several times a year.

The Executive Committee is charged with overseeing the day-to-day business and affairs of the corporation. We have been meeting often to identify issues to be resolved, such as events to be planned through the year, fair pay for the Administrator, and ways to strengthen the Center so needs can be met. Major issues are submitted to the full Board for consideration and possible vote. The Administrator is the only person on the Executive Committee who is paid, and she directs the many activities of the Center. The WOLC office is located in St. Mark Catholic Center at 429 E. Grandview Boulevard.

A member of the corporation is defined as anyone who supports the Center on a yearly basis by monetary gifts or is a member of the Board. In 2014 we had monetary gifts from about 80 people. We really need more contributors to keep the Center going. We also need more volunteer help for Liz Geary; you may remember reading the appeal for help from the Executive Committee in the last issue of Reflections. We thank you for what you are doing for the Renewal. Please take note of the needs of your Word of Life Center. Let's all PRAY AND FAST.

The Reason: How I Discovered a Life Worth Living (a book review)

Unless you have listened to Christian Rock or attended a revival event hosted by the Billy Graham Evangelical Association, you probably do not know much about Lacey Sturm. Lacey is the former lead singer of the Christian Rock group Flyleaf. Currently, besides being a wife and mother, Lacey travels the country with BGEA to proclaim her testimony about how God intervened and saved her life. Lacey just recently published her autobiography, *The Reason: How I Discovered a Life Worth Living*.

I have known parts of Lacey's story ever since I began listening to Flyleaf. Yet, I did not know everything. In her book, she tells about how she became an atheist who hated God, anyone who believes in God, and everyone who was happy. This happened because of traumatic experiences Lacey had throughout her childhood. Being poor, moving extensively, and learning about her three-year-old cousin's murder took a toll on Lacey's life and innocence. At the age of ten, after learning about her

By Dan E. Arndt

cousin's death at the hands of his stepfather, Lacey turned away from God and fell into the false promises of sin. Her life spiraled so far out of control that she planned to commit suicide when she was only sixteen-years-old. On the night she was to carry out her plan, her Grandmother took her to church where a gentle man, who felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, asked to pray over her because *he had heard from God* that Lacey cried herself to sleep each night. That one experience changed Lacey's life.

I highly recommend this book. Lacey's testimony is inspirational. It reminds me that we need to act upon what the Spirit calls us to do daily because we never know when we might change someone's life just like the man in Lacey's story. You can get a copy of her book at any retail bookstore or online stores such as Amazon.com. There is also a copy in the Center's library to borrow.

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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.

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Volume XXIX

Issue No. 1



**Restore us,
O God Almighty;
make your face shine
upon us, that we
may be saved.**

Psalm 80:7, NIV

January 2015