



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

January 2016

Walking with God

By Jack Heintzel

In Deuteronomy 8:6, 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: "Sit-

ting 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 (Amplified 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

New Office Manager

The Word of Life Center is introducing a new office manager, Diane Wiler, whose starting date was December 9th. She will be a part-time employee of the Center, generally working on Wednesdays 1:00 to 4:00 and Thursdays 10:00 to 3:00. So if you have a need to go to the office for something you can plan to go on those days. Please call before coming; the phone number is 814-824-1286. If you come, check in as a visitor at the front desk.

Diane is currently working part-time as parish accountant at St. Joseph / Bread of Life Church, and will continue in that capacity. She has also had prior experience in the business and manufacturing fields. Please join us in welcoming Diane to the Center's team.

The Messiah Won't Come From Galilee, Will He?

By Jack Heintzel

Or from Erie? Or DuBois? Or Johnsonburg? Or Meadville? How could the Messiah come from any place as insignificant as that? Or switch to something more worldly, like an expert in business. How could a top business executive come from Emporium, or Clearfield, or Sharon?

And yet this does happen. Ordinary people from small towns sometimes rise to the top in their fields. A piece in *The Word Among Us* brings this to light in a Scriptural sense. Read John 7:41 and try to picture the scene in Jerusa-

lem. The Galilean carpenter was in Jerusalem, the big city. He went to the temple, the holiest site in Israel, and began to teach. But how would the people receive him, this simple Galilean?

There was confusion among the crowd in Jerusalem as they tried to reconcile their beliefs about the origin of the Messiah with the fact that Galilee, Jesus' home, was not a very important place. And yet people were talking about this man from Galilee as if he were something special. This is not the only time in history that people have asked this type of question. "A saint will not come from the slums of Calcutta, will she (Mother Teresa)?" A pope will not come from Communist Poland, will he (John Paul II)?" A Doctor of the Church will not be a girl from a remote French Cloister, will she (Therese of Lisieux)?"

Jesus' critics were focused on the fact that he came from an area of no particular importance. While they speculated about Galilee versus Bethlehem, the home of the great King David, they missed the way that Jesus' wisdom and authority pointed to his royal lineage. They were fooled by his ordinary appearance. They could not discern the King of kings and Lord of lords, the messianic "Son of David," who himself raised David from obscurity to nobility (1 Samuel 16).

Of course, they also were unaware that the Messiah's ordinariness was foreshadowed in the Scriptures: Isaiah 53:2-3 tells us that there was in him nothing that would attract us to

him. They "held him in no esteem." Jesus was overlooked then as he often is today, just as the shepherd David was overlooked before the Lord told Samuel to look more closely at him (1 Samuel 16:7). In the same way, many of the apostles would have been overlooked by anyone but God. Even the first pope, St. Peter, was just a fisherman!

As the article's author says, God does not overlook *anyone*, including you! He doesn't worry about where you came from. Rather, he looks at your heart. He looks at your desires and your dreams. He doesn't look back but looks ahead. He wants to give you a future full of hope; he has a plan for your life (see Jeremiah 29:11). Whether or not the world thinks you are important, you matter more than the world to God. Will you make yourself available to him? Will you listen for his call? Don't keep him waiting any longer. Let him turn your ordinary into his extraordinary.

The Problem of Evil

Why did Jesus Christ not remain alive and eliminate, generation by generation, all the evils which harass humanity? Simply because he was the Great Physician, and in the finest tradition of medical science, he was unwilling to remain preoccupied with the symptoms when he could destroy the disease. Jesus Christ was unwilling to settle for anything less than elimination of the cause of all evil in history.

Richard C. Halverson

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 the 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 a dog's 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 attacks?

1. Recognize that Satan is hard at work, but like that 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 6:10f)
4. Designate a place in our homes for prayer, and spend time every day in prayer. Suggestions are: the rosary; the *Taking Authority* Prayer ([see page 7](#)); reading Scripture; and praying in tongues.
5. Have blessed items in our homes; wear a blessed article, either a medal or scapular.
6. Use the spiritual 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)

Quote

Fear knocked at the door.
Faith answered. No one was there.
Unknown

Lesson in Courage

In the 1993 movie *In the Line of Fire*, Clint Eastwood played Secret Service agent Frank Horrigan. Horrigan had protected the life of the president for more than three decades, but he was haunted by the memory of what had happened thirty years before. Horrigan was a young agent assigned to President Kennedy on the fateful day in Dallas in 1963. When the assassin fired, Horrigan froze in shock.

For thirty years afterward, he wrestled with the ultimate question for a Secret Service agent: Can I take a bullet for the president?

In the climax of the movie, Horrigan did what he had been unable to do earlier – he threw himself into the path of an assassin's bullet to save the chief executive.

Secret Service agents are willing to do such a thing because they believe the president is so valuable to our country and the world that he is worth dying for. Obviously they would not take a bullet for just anyone.

At Calvary the situation was reversed. The President of the Universe actually took a bullet for each of us. At the Cross we see how valuable we are to God.



Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace Church

2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM

First Wednesday of the month

Contemporary Mass

St. Joseph Church

Bread of Life Community

11:00 AM every Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Perpetual Adoration

Bread of Life Chapel

St. Joseph Community Center

Chaplet of Mercy

Every day at 3:00 PM in Bread of Life Chapel

St. Joseph Novena

St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life

Community

Every Wednesday 7:00 PM

Memorials

In memory of

Requested by

Dolores Englert

T.A. Walkiewicz

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 final confrontation between the Lord and Satan will be over family and marriage.”

*Sr. Lucia, principal visionary of Our Lady of Fatima
(from Ralph Martin, Renewal Ministries Newsletter,
Sept. 2015)*

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 6:30 PM

Rick Kenawell (814) 375-0328

DuBois, PA

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM

West 8th & Powell Ave.

Jack Heintzel 838-1325

† 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. Andrews Chapel

(formerly Leopold Center group)

1116 West 7th St.

Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

At 3:15 PM (before Mass)

River of Life PG

2nd & 4th Monday evenings

7:00PM

St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA

Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church

2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM

Pat Montefiori 823-3968

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,

Shinglehouse, PA 10 AM – 12 Noon

Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00 PM

Religious Education Center

Emporium, PA

† Thursday:

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30 PM

5031 W. Ridge Rd..

S.S.J. Living Center

Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd.

7:00 PM

John Griebel

825-3588

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for

Location

7:30 PM

T.A. Walkiewicz

833-9717



Shining Examples

By Agnes Helsley

In Joni Earickson's daily devotional *Pearls of Great Price* she relates an interesting story. A friend of hers wrote the following about a godly saint in her church:

I saw the woman in the chair; she was in church again today.

Someone said they've sold their house; they're going to move away.

I didn't get to know her; there's something I need to say:

Please tell me your secret; I want to sit at your feet,

I need to know how you handle the pain that is your daily meat.

How do you keep on smiling when each day your health grows worse?

How do you keep depending on God when you're living with a curse?

Every time I see her, her smile comes from deep within.

I know her fellowship with God isn't scarred by the chair she's in.

She admits her health is failing; she knows she's fading away.

How can she remain so calm when I'd be running away.

My friend, can you tell me how you can trust the Lord?

How can you stay so gentle and sweet when He seems to wield a sword?

You are to me a promise that that even in the midst of pain God is near and faithful if I will turn to Him again.

No one is alone in this life. There are people observing us and our response to events in our lives. We can be an example of faithful trust in God or we can become a sour grouch fighting against the trials of our lives. Certainly Joni herself, paralyzed at age 17 by a dive in shallow water, had many difficult months to endure before accepting her heavy cross. Now fifty years or so later the aging process increases the heaviness of her cross. She is a shining example of faith in the midst of increasing pain and discomfort. She has given great glory to her Lord and Savior through her acceptance of her disability.

When we see those enduring triumphantly through their problems and setting an example for us to follow, we need to be mindful of praying for God's fresh supply of strength and mercy for them.

Pray also for the afflicted and those suffering for their faith in God. The world needs prayer warriors standing in the gap for the Church Suffering.

A praying heart; a good sense of humor; the ability to think less of ourselves and more of others; these things help us to take on an attitude of a servant. We know the King of kings came to serve. Who are we to do less?

May our heavenly Father look on us with favor. May we be pleasing in His sight. May our Redeemer grant us the grace to take up our cross and follow in His footsteps. May the Holy Spirit fill us

with His fruit – love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!



Tentative Events Schedule

Here is the tentative schedule of events for 2016:

March

12th – Pr. Brunch – SJ/BOL

April

20th or 27th – Board Meet. –
St. Mark

May

15th – Praise Fest – SJ/BOL

15th – LIS @ SCI/C.S.

TBD – LIS @ SCI/Albion

June

11th – Women's Day of
Recollection – SJ/BOL

July

20th or 27th – Board Meet. –
St. Mark

August

27th – Pr. Brunch – SJ/BOL

October

8th – Day of Renewal-SJ/BOL

10th – start of LIS – SJ/BOL
(complete Nov. 21)

November

9th – Board meet. – St. Mark

13th – Membership dinner &
annual meeting – St. Mark

TBD – LIS @ SCI/Albion

December

3rd – Day of Recollection –
SJ/BOL

Beginning a Year of Mercy

In many ways and in various publications, the Catholic Church has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. It runs from December 2015 to November 2016.

Pope Francis is quoted as saying this: "From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends."

The ancient Hebrews celebrated a jubilee every 50 years. It was a year of rest and restoration. In the 1300s, the Catholic Church adopted the tradition of proclaiming a jubilee every 50 years to encourage people to return to a life of holiness. By the 1400s a jubilee was proclaimed every 25 years so each generation could participate. Our last "ordinary" jubilee took place during the year 2000. But there is also a Catholic tradition of proclaiming an "extraordinary jubilee" outside the 25-year cycle.

Why Mercy?

There is a great need for mercy in our world today. Pope Francis wants our parishes to become "islands of mercy in a sea of indifference" (Message for Lent 2015). He wants us to bring "consolation to the poor ... liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in our modern society," spiritual sight to those who

have lost touch with God, and human dignity to those from whom it has been taken.

The Pope envisions a year when people will become more merciful in their own lives and bring God's mercy to others. He stresses that living a merciful life does not mean we ignore justice in our society. He reminds us, "Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe." Indeed, God's justice is mercy.

(Ed. note: excerpted from A Year of Mercy, published by Our Sunday Visitor, No. P1751)

Be Still and Know That I Am God

By Jean Heintzel

To be still and watch TV
Is not to BE.
To sit and fall asleep – is not
bad, but...
Is not to BE.

To BE is...
To surrender yourself
Mind, body, and spirit to ME

Come sit by My side.
Feel My arm around your
shoulder.
Come feel the peace I give to
you.
Come be renewed in My love.

Come BE with ME

Wisdom from the Saints

O Lord Jesus,
I will embrace you who
became a little child for me.
In my weakness, I clasp you
who became weak for me.
A mere human,
I embrace God made human,
the God who became a
person as poor as I am.
I embrace you, Lord, because
your lowly state is my
greatness, and your weakness
is my strength.
The foolishness of God is my
wisdom. Amen.

St. Aelred (1110-1167)

When evening comes, never lie
down to rest without the
intimate conviction that you
are ready to appear before
God. Remind yourself that if
death were to come that night,
the sovereign Judge would
give a verdict...on your
conduct and on your whole
life. *Bl. Columba Marmion*

I will abandon myself fully to
the Holy Spirit, allowing
myself to be led wherever and
whenever the Spirit wants,
accompanying the Spirit, for
my part, with effective and
strong resolutions and serious
discernment....The Holy Spirit
descends upon us with great
gentleness, never with a racket.
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Anyone who thirsts for God
eagerly studies and meditates
on the inspired Word, knowing
that there he is certain to find
the one for whom he thirsts.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Based on Ephesians 6:10-17

I put on or take up:

I say:

I declare:

The belt of truth	<input type="checkbox"/> I cling to You as Truth; I reject all lies and deceptions of the devil.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, You are my Truth
The breast plate of righteousness	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to walk with You with an undivided heart, not following the ways of the world.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, You are my righteousness
The shoes of the gospel of peace	<input type="checkbox"/> Help me take the gospel message with me wherever I go, and have the boldness to proclaim it.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, You are my readiness
The sword of the Spirit	<input type="checkbox"/> Help me know the Scriptures better; may they be a powerful weapon against Satan in my hands.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, You are the Living Word
The shield of faith	<input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen my faith; may I believe fully what you tell me, and not doubt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, You are my faith
The helmet of salvation	<input type="checkbox"/> Purify my thoughts; may I have Your perspective on everything; may my mind be a pure channel for the thoughts that come from You; I claim the mind of Christ.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, You are my salvation

Let us proclaim: I refuse to let Satan delay or destroy God's plan for my life!

Adapted by Jack Heintzel from an unknown source

PRAYER FOR TAKING AUTHORITY

Lord Jesus, in your name we take authority over Satan. We bind all evil powers and forces in the air, in the water, in the ground, in the underground, in the netherworld and in nature. We claim your Lordship, Jesus, over the air and the atmosphere.

We forbid all demonic interactions, all demonic communications anywhere in our lives and the lives of those we love. We seal all of us here, and all that we are about, in the protection of your most precious blood that was shed for us on the cross. Mary, our Mother, we claim your protection over us here; surround us with your mantle of protection and frustrate Satan's power. St. Michael and our guardian angels, come and defend us in battle against Satan and the powers and forces of darkness. All powers and forces that are not of Jesus, anywhere in this room, we command you in the name of Jesus Christ to depart from here and to never enter again.

We ask that these things that are not of you, Lord, be replaced with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and fill us, and change us into the image of you.

We pray all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source unknown

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New hours being 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: Kathy Wilcox, Agnes Helsley,
Amy Mosbacher

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“All the ends of the earth, all the kingdoms of the world would be of no profit to me; so far as I am concerned, to die in Jesus Christ is better than to be monarch of earth’s widest bounds. He who died for us is all that I seek; he who rose again for us is my whole desire.”

- St. Ignatius of Antioch

January 2016