

Word Of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

January 2018

LOOKING FORWARD AND WELCOMING CHANGE By Jack Heintzel



Volume XXXII

Issue No. 1

There is a song our prayer group sings called *Times of Refreshing* by Harris and Nystrom. The lyrics begin with "Times of refreshing here in Your presence. No greater blessing than being with You. My soul is restored, my mind is renewed." This song reflects the way I feel as I retire from being editor of Reflections. Bittersweet, but content.

This came to me as I was thinking about this change in my life and how to tell our readers. God has a way of periodically changing things in ways that can refresh our lives and improve our outlook on life. Our lives are dynamic, not static. When I think things are hunky-dory and don't need to change, Our Lord often acts in a sovereign way to do the unexpected.

As I continue to write articles for Reflections, it will be as a

writer, not as the editor. Starting in January 2018, the new year will bring changes in our newsletter operation and in my life. After about 7 years as editor and 29 years as a contributor, the inexorable (look it up) march of time has had the effect of slowing me down (we never think it will happen to us). Due to some health concerns and age, I am ready to have someone else take over as editor. God has graciously provided a capable replacement for me.

I want to introduce our readers to Elaine Sinnott, who is now taking over as editor and has previous editing experience. She will be working under Dr. Jacqueline (Jaci) Phillips-Sabol, who is a member of the Word of Life Center Board of Directors and who has good experience in corporate upper management. Other highly experienced people are taking on increased responsibility to guide Reflections as we go forward. So, we are wellpositioned to have a successful transition. I will do all I can as a writer to help them.

The experienced staff of Reflections will continue to contribute their time and talents so that our newsletter will be very valuable to the spiritual life of our readers. That's our prayer. I hope you will look forward with us as we try to both bless God and you with the Reflections Newsletter.

May God continue to bless you.

Jack

"Times of refreshing here in Your presence. No greater blessing than being with You. My soul is restored, my mind is renewed."

RISKY BUSINESS By Amy Mosbacher

I heard a story once (I don't know from where) about a tightrope walker going across a very deep chasm while a crowd waited with baited breath. When at last he made it across the crowd roared their applause.

"Were you sure I'd make it?" He asked to their enthusiasm. "Do you think I can do it again?"

The people cheered, yes, of course he could do it again.

"How many think I could do it carrying someone on my back?"

Their excitement was palpable, whistling and waving.

Do I have a volunteer?"

The crowd fell silent and looked at each other uneasily. Then a little girl volunteered. She climbed onto his back and the tightrope walker set off, holding his bar low. The crowd was silent, watching as wind whipped about and beads of sweat and concentration marked his face. As he finally stepped off the wire and set the little girl down, the crowd erupted in a cacophony of praise. What an illustration of the difference between belief versus faith. Belief was what the crowd had. They believed he could walk that tightrope even carrying someone. It was safe. But what the girl had was faith. She took her belief one step further and put it into action, and that was risky, but effective.

So often believing is very easy. How hard is it in church on Sundays to say "I believe in God the Father Almighty..." We're safe there in our pews with not much consequence to our words. However, how much more difficult is it to say "I believe" when someone is pointing a gun to your head?

In the Gospel, the woman suffering with a hemorrhage believed that Jesus could heal her. She could have stayed there on the side of the road and prayed, and in doing so, most likely not have been healed. Instead she screwed up her courage and plunged into the crowd, reached out and touched the hem of Jesus' garment as He walked by, and thus received a reward for her faith.

Once we've looked at faith that way, as something that has to be put into action, we can better consider our own lives and how we might be putting our beliefs into action. How often do we consider God and His plan when we make decisions? Not only decisions like how to vote or how to tithe, but even smaller decisions like how to spend our time or what kind of entertainment we choose. Are we confident enough in God that we're willing to choose different things from what society says we need and believe that God will supply our joy? Only when people see us radiating joy that doesn't make sense will they say, "I want what they have."

Holy Mother Mary, you gave us the best example of putting faith in action when you said "Let it be done to me." Help us to do the same. Blessed be God forever!



Almost 50 years ago the Holy Spirit fell in power on a handful of Duquesne University students. Since that day, it is estimated that over 120 million Catholics in almost every country in the world have experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit. In 1967, this place was called The Ark and The Dove, and students like David Mangan, Patti Mansfield and others, experienced the love of God, poured into their hearts, which is the Holy Spirit.

HOLY GROUND By T.A. Walkiewicz

About two years after the Catholic Charismatic Renewal began, I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and began my life in the Spirit. I can say that before this my life would be described as black and white. Afterwards it was in living color!

I grew in the Charismatic Renewal hearing all the stories about what happened at The Ark and The Dove, where the renewal in the Catholic Church began. Several of my friends were present that great weekend when the Holy Spirit first fell in power and described their experiences of that momentous weekend to me. It sounded so astonishing! God Himself arranged this. My friends told me about the miracle of the water well that ran dry at the retreat center which almost forced them to leave. But God moved when they prayed and there was immediately water! These were ordinary students and immediate response to fervent (which they also were not used to) prayer was completely new to them.

I heard about the many different responses to the power of the Holy Spirit as, one by one, people found their way to the chapel. They each experienced peace, tears, joy, deep repentance, and the strong desire to remain in the profound presence of Almighty God. I was so eager to attend the 50th Anniversary Charismatic Conference in Pittsburgh this past July. I was especially looking forward to the tour of The Ark and The Dove, where the Charismatic Renewal was born. I had to be there. Yes! I would actually *see* the reality of what I had heard about for so many years.

Glory! We got on the bus on a rather rainy day. The closer we got, the more excited I got. Finally, we arrived and poured out of the bus. Much to my surprise, the larger house, The Ark, wasn't really all that big. It was just an ordinary house. The Dove was even smaller. But it was indeed all holy ground! The second floor chapel, where the Holy Spirit sovereignly fell on each student, was a surprise, too. In my mind I always pictured a huge room. Instead, it was a quite ordinary room you could picture being in any old house, with a tabernacle and small altar, yet truly amazing grace was experienced in this sacred space. As I knelt in the simple room, I said to Jesus, "I'm here, I'm really here. Where You began such a mighty move of God in my Church." 120 MILLION Catholics would be baptized in the Holy Spirit and COME ALIVE as a result of what God did in this small room! Wow! Such gratitude welled up in my spirit and heart.

The rain had stopped so we were able to walk around the grounds. The sense of profound peace permeated throughout the entire retreat house and grounds. I am so grateful that the leaders of the Renewal purchased the property and it is now available for us to visit or to stay there. The visit to this Holy Ground was one of the highlights for me of this year's Jubilee Charismatic Renewal Conference. It took me 50 years to get there! Thank you, Jesus, that you used ordinary college students who were hungering for a new Pentecost to begin. Let us faithfully continue to spread the FIRE of the Holy Spirit that fell upon The Ark and The Dove. Editor's Note: For more information, see "As By A New Pentecost" by Patti Mansfield





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

continued for another year, I pray that as my years increase, my sins may not increase. As age advances, let me become more open, more faithful, and more trusting in you. Continue and increase your loving kindness towards me so that, when you finally call me to yourself, I may enter into eternal happiness with you. Amen."

"Almighty God, by whose mercy my life has

"Active waiting for the Lord means not allowing ourselves to be lulled into purely private interests in our homes, but donating our attention, time, and talents." Joseph Cardinal Bernadin

"Evangelism is not what we tell people, unless what we tell is totally consistent with who we are. If we do not love in our hearts, our words of love will have little meaning." Madeline L'Engle

† SUNDAY

Shalom in Jesus Prayer GroupIn home6:30 PMRick Kenawell(814) 375-0328DuBois, PA

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church6:30 PMWest Lake Rd. & Powell Ave.Jack Heintzel(814)838-1325

Holy Crown of Thorns

Prayer GroupIn home1:30 PMFirst Sunday of the month749 Bean Farm RdSheffield, PALil Herbstritt(814) 986-3206



† 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

PRAYER GROUPS

St. Andrew Chapel (formerly Leopold Center group) Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary 1116 West 7th St. 3:15 pm (after Mass)

(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

† TUESDAY:

Mary Lou Peterson

Son of God Prayer GroupHoly Rosary Church2701 East Ave.7:00 PMPat Montefiori(814) 823-3968

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

† WEDNESDAY:

St. Mark's Prayer GroupSt. Mark Church7:00 PMReligious Education CenterEmporium, PA

† 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

† FRIDAY:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting Call for location 1:00 PM T.A. Walkiewicz (814) 833-9717

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

PROPHECY REPORT

Given at CCR Diocesan Leaders Prayer Group on 12/8/2017

To the Church in Ephesus

"To the angel[a] of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp stands. 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place." Rev 2:1-5 The Lord says that you can be doing everything right, as the church in Ephesus was. You can work hard for the Lord and persevere. You can hate what He hates. You can test what is preached and rightly reject those who do not preach according to Spirit and Truth. But if you have forgot that first burning love that you had for the Lord when hands were first laid on you or you were first converted, if you don't do the things of someone who is in love with the Savior, you are being rebuked and you must pray to the Holy Spirit to rekindle the fire of the first love and walk in the love. Today, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we pray for Mary's intercession as we say "yes."

Scripture received by Pat Montefiori Interpretation by Jaci Phillips



COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

"You could not love Jesus if you did not possess the living source of the holy and pure love, namely, the Holy Spirit. Our divine Redeemer said, 'He that believeth in Me, out of his belly shall flow streams of living water,' (John 7:38). This He said of the spirit which they should receive who believed in Him. Therefore, when God enkindles in you the flames of divine love, holy, pure, and without stain, let yourself disappear in the infinite Good, and, like an infant, sleep the sleep of faith and love in the bosom of your heavenly Spouse." – *St. Paul of the Cross*

"Those who are truly disciples, receiving grace from him, perform [miracles] in his name for the well being of others, according to the gift which each one has received from him. For some truly drive out devils, so that those who have been thus cleansed from evil spirits frequently believe [in Christ] and join themselves to the Church. Others have foreknowledge of things to come; they see visions and utter prophecies. Others still heal the sick by laying their hands upon them, and they are made whole. Yes, moreover, the dead even have been raised up and remained among us for many years." – *St. Irenaeus*





By The Word of Their Testimony "But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death." (Revelation 12:11)

Does God Still Heal Today? By Patty Montefiori

Unequivocally! I have been a member and leader of Son of God Prayer Group at Holy Rosary Chapel in Erie, PA for approximately 16 years now and have witnessed many, many physical, emotional and spiritual healings. I prayed over a young woman who was concerned that she had been unable to conceive after many years. A few months after laying hands on her, she became pregnant with her first child and has since had 5 natural children and has adopted 4 more children! Praise God! Another miracle occurred when a friend's daughter was diagnosed with stage-4 cancer in 2011. Our prayer group prayed for her and her cancer is now in remission. In addition, she recently had a growth discovered in her abdomen with the possibility of a recurrence of cancer. She needed a biopsy, but the prayer group prayed for her before the biopsy. When the doctor checked for the growth right before biopsy, it was completely GONE!! Yes, God still heals today! Mark 11:24 says, "Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." This is our faith!

Editor's Note: Please send an email to Elaine at <u>ems5195@gmail.com</u> if you have seen God move in a powerful way!

"Lo, I am the Lord, who hath lifted thee up from the depth. I have sustained thee thus far. Lift up thine eyes and look on the fields and, behold, they are white. Shall I suffer thee to spread a table before Mine enemies? As I live, saith the Lord, the windows of heaven shall be opened, and the rain shall come down upon the parched earth. With flowers the wilderness shall yet be decked, and the meadow land shall be the habitation of kings. The ground shall sprout and blossom in its fullness and the heavens shall look down with laughter upon hidden riches on the earth, yielding glory unto God. Open thine hand, and I will fill it with wisdom. Open thy heart, and I will fill it with love. Look towards the west and call thousands; toward the south, and say 'Come,' toward the north, and say 'Draw nigh.' Look towards the east and say 'Let the sun arise and shed forth its warmth. Let life spring up. Let the nations which have rejected my name live.' To kings turn thyself and say, 'Bend;' To knights, 'Submit ye.' To the priests, 'Deal out judgement, pity, forgiveness. Ye islands, seas, and kingdoms, give ear unto Me, I am the Almighty. Shall I lift up my rod over you? Did I not swear by the prophet Isaiah: "I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear?"' (Isaiah 45:23 KJV) – **The Power to Change the World, 63-64***

***Reference Used:** Joyner, Rick. *The Power to Change the World: The Welsh and Azusa Street Revivals*. Fort Mill, SC: MorningStar Publications, Inc., 2006.

JESUS, THE NAME ABOVE EVERY OTHER NAME By Kathy Wilcox

The Catholic calendar is a great reference tool. It has carefully planned, been including the dates of all the liturgical events, celebrations and saints days. Each month has a focus. The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. January 1st we honor Mary, the mother of God, January 3rd the Holy Name of Jesus, January 7th the Epiphany of our Lord, and on January 8th His Baptism.

How appropriate that we start the year honoring the name of Jesus. His name was carefully chosen, announced to Mary by the angel Gabriel who came directly from God the Father and brought to the world redemption for our fallen state. "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus" (Luke 1:31). His name means "savior", designating his mission. We are assured that whoever calls upon His name will be saved from eternal damnation. There have been multiple testimonies of those in danger who could only call out the Name of Jesus

and have been saved from personal attack and even death. Howard Storm, a former atheist, tells his personal story of standing at the gates of Hell, and remembering singing Jesus Loves Me from his childhood. He said the name of Jesus and was saved from hell and was given another chance at life. life after this His was completely transformed. The name of Jesus has the power to deliver and transform.

Everything the Church does is done in Jesus' name. In His name, the Church administers all the sacraments. In His name are offered all the official prayers to bless homes, the fields, and the sick. In the name of Jesus, the Church casts out evil spirits, and then at the hour of our death anoints "Go forth, our passing. Christian soul." When our soul has departed this life to seek its eternal home, the Church asks in the name of Jesus, "Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord."

We have been given permission to pray personally to the Father in Jesus' name. In John 14:13, Jesus said to His disciples, "Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." And in John 16:24: "Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive that your joy may be full."

"At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Jesus' name in itself is a oneword prayer that we can pray out loud and to ourselves all day long and even as we fall asleep. While doing so we can picture all of the demons having to bow each and every time we say that beautiful, wonderful name!

Whatever we need, wherever we are, we can simply Pray, pray, pray... - in Jesus' name. Amen.





"Exercising faith is like wearing a pair of bifocal glasses. Most of us are used to using the upper lens of faith for distant things, such as the joy of heaven after death. But we are poor at using the lower lens of faith for things close to us, in day-to-day life. God wants us to open our eyes through the charism of faith so that we see everything with His perspective." – Lord, Renew Your Wonders, 192

Reference Used: Stayne, Damian. *Lord, Renew Your Wonders: Spiritual Gifts for Today.* Frederick, MD: The Word Us Press, 2017.

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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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