



Reflections

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

June/July 2014

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

Are you a prophet?

By Jack Heintzel

Don't say “no” too quickly. Because if you are baptized in the Holy Spirit then you have the Charismatic gift of prophecy. It may be latent – never used – but that gift is available to you because it is part of the “package” of gifts that God gave you. As a refresher, reread the list of blessings known as the Charismatic gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

In a meditation from *The Word Among Us* for Lent 2014, we are given an interesting explanation of the gift of prophecy. The author says this: “It has become common to think of a prophet as a person who can foretell the future. But really, a prophet is someone who hears from the Lord and shares what he has heard with the people around him.”

St. Paul, in his instructions to the Corinthians, listed nine gifts that each believer receives when he or she is baptized in the Holy Spirit. These spiritual gifts are momentary (given for a particular moment) and are given for the common good (of the church). God uses these gifts as He sees fit, distributed among His people as needed. At a given time He may use one person for healing, another for word of knowledge, and

another for prophecy. *You* might be the one used for speaking a prophetic word.

How might the Holy Spirit use you? When I was baptized in the Spirit I was prompted by God to begin a study of these gifts, particularly prophecy, because He was beginning to use me in this gift. He began to put thoughts in my head that I felt He wanted me to share. I knew I had all the gifts in my possession, including a prayer language, but prophecy was the gift I was drawn to. I am not strong in all the gifts, but I know that God might use me for any of them at any time He chooses. I have to be ready.

On June 8, 2014 we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost. When Jesus poured out His Holy Spirit on His disciples they received what we now call the Charismatic gifts. This included the gift of prophecy, as well as a prayer language, discernment of spirits, word of wisdom and other gifts that enhance our Christian ministry. God wants us to use these gifts for the good of the Body of Christ. With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first Christian Pentecost the apostles experienced something powerful.

According to *The Word Among Us* (May 2002), from that moment on, they were new persons, full of courage, fearlessly preaching Jesus. Only love can achieve that. St. Paul wrote in Romans 5:5 that “God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.”

So I urge you to pray seriously about *how* God might use you in His love. Maybe it will be the gift of prophecy. If you get a message that seems to apply to others – individually or in a group - take a chance and share it with them. Take a step of faith. It's a learning process, but God will guide you as you walk with Him.



Pentecost: June 8, 2014

Centering in

By Liz Geary

- **June & July combined**

Reflections editor Jack Heintzel and I have decided to try something new this year with our combined issues of the newsletter. For 2014 we are going to try combining the June and July editions into one edition. In the past, there was a separate June edition but the July and August editions were always combined. Our decision to change was made to give the Center a better ability to advertise our fall events. You will still get eleven issues of *Reflections*, they will just be mailed out a little differently than what you have been accustomed to. After this issue, look for the next issue (August) to arrive the first week of August. Thank you so much for your understanding as we try to find better ways to serve you and our Lord.

- **LSS at Albion prison**

Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on both the team and those being baptized in the Spirit during the Life in the Spirit Seminar scheduled for Saturday, June 28th at the Albion Men's Correctional Facility. Many thanks to the team for all of their efforts and especially to Dan Zuba for all of his time and talents in organizing the day-long seminar.

- **Prayer brunch in June**

This is just a reminder of the prayer brunch scheduled for Saturday, June 21st. Please seriously consider attending. Our speaker, Susan Yurkewicz, has a very powerful testimony. Jim Dzuricky will be providing music ministry and leading praise and worship. Please look for more details and a registration form on page 7 of this edition of *Reflections*. You will notice that the brunch fee has increased to \$8.50 to keep pace with the costs associated with putting on the brunch. Those involved in planning the brunches do everything possible to keep costs to a minimum, but from time to time it is necessary to increase fees to keep pace with costs. I thank you in advance for your understanding as changes are made to keep the Center and all of the Center sponsored events financially solvent. Reservations are kindly due by June 16th.

- **Day of Renewal**

I have great news! Speaker Renée Marazon has graciously accepted an invitation to speak on Saturday, September 6th at St. Joe's/BOL for a Day of Renewal sponsored by the Center! Many of you will remember Renée as the dynamic speaker for many of the Charismatic women's retreats sponsored by the Center. Please look for further details on page 5 in this edition of *Reflections*. I do hope that you seriously consider attending.

- **Summer finances**

I would like to take this time to thank all of the Center's faithful contributors for their tireless efforts and financial contributions that keep the Center running. That being said, I need to remind everyone that with the onset of summer, the Center traditionally sees a drop-off in financial contributions. Because of this, I humbly ask that you please remember to send in your pledges and gifts to the Center even though you may be busy or traveling over the summer months. Your contributions are vital to keeping the ministry of the Word of Life Center running. We cannot do this work without you. Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your financial contributions, words of encouragement, and prayers. They are much appreciated. May God bless you richly for all that you do for the Center.

- **Pentecost Sunday**

A time to celebrate! This is just a reminder that Pentecost Sunday is on June 8th. Please remember to wear red and celebrate the fire of the Holy Spirit! Plan a celebration and mark a very special day on the Church calendar!

- **Happy Father's Day**

I would like to wish a very happy Father's day to all the Dads on Sunday, June 15th. Thank you for answering the special call to Fatherhood. May God bless you!

Susan's journey home

By Kathy Wilcox

I recently connected with an old friend, who over 30 years ago led me to Christ and prayed with me for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We recently visited after not seeing each other for over 15 years and spent an afternoon catching up. She shared the following amazing chapter of her life.

When the priest scandal flamed into the news over 12 years ago, Susan Kirby was upset and so distressed that she decided to leave the Catholic Church. She found a home in a small Presbyterian church. There she found others who loved the Lord, faithfully read and memorized scripture, and worshiped Him reverently.

Susan quickly became a participating member of the congregation and was drawn to the communion service. After the congregation left, her group gathered the remnants of the celebration. She was then instructed to pour the grape juice (the wine substitute) down the drain and toss the remaining bread out in the yard for the birds.

Sue shared with me that she became increasingly upset with this practice and finally expressed her discomfort with the others. They gently dismissed her concerns, and it became a common theme to smilingly chide "Susie" for being overly sensitive. Years went by, and yet Sue's uneasiness could not be put aside, even though she realized that these people really loved Jesus and did not believe that they were doing anything wrong.

She began experiencing actual hunger pangs which food did not satisfy. Then certain words from the Mass started playing in her mind: "When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim Your Death, O Lord, until You come again." These words from her previous life as a Catholic would not stop coming to her.

The moment came when she needed to act. Sunday morning, instead of driving to her Presbyterian church, she headed to our Catholic parish. But the Mass times had changed, and when she saw from the sign she was there at the wrong time she continued to drive. She found herself at the parking lot of the Catholic Church where she had been baptized, had received her First Communion, and had been confirmed. The lot was empty but she parked her car and approached the door to see if it was unlocked. She walked in and immediately felt a peace that confirmed her decision. As she slowly walked up to the front of the church, an elderly woman turned and walked toward her. It was a lifelong friend of her deceased mother, and when she came to Susan she gathered her in her arms, simply saying "welcome home."

Sue ended her story by telling me that she now attends daily Mass and just can't get enough of Jesus in the Eucharist. She understands that it was He who called her back to the church of her childhood. There she could not only hear His Word, and praise and worship Him; she could also receive His consecrated Body and Blood.

A new old way to pray

An ancient Jewish form of prayer, still in use today, involves sprinkling one's day with short prayers of gratitude to God. The prayer typically begins: "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who ..." and concludes with a phrase that fits the specific situation. Such a prayer works well in both good circumstances and bad. For example:

- "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who has provided clean water for my shower this morning."
- "Blessed are you, O Lord ... who brings friends to support me in my grief."
- "Blessed are you, O Lord ... who has blessed me with keen mind; please help me focus while I take this test."
- "Blessed are you, O Lord ... who holds my children in unconditional love."

Try using this form of prayer liberally as a way to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and to weave your faith throughout each day.

Sometimes a prayer request is in order

A parent was having difficulty keeping his five-year-old son quiet during worship. Finally, when he saw that he wasn't succeeding, he picked up the little lad and hurried toward the door. As they neared the exit, the boy yelled loudly: "Pray for me!"

— King Duncan
In Amusing Grace

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday June 4; July 2, 2014

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

Claudia Rush
Audry Dietz

Requested by

Jean & Jack Heintzel
Carol Mando

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 greater part of our happiness or misery
depends on our disposition and not on
our circumstances.**

– Martha Washington

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
June 1,8,15,22,29; July 6,13,20,27

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
June 1,8,15,22,29; July 6,13,20,27

† 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
June 2,9,16,23,30; July 7,14,21,28

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
June 2,9,16,23,30; July 7,14,21,28
(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
June 9,23; July 14,28

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
June 3,10,17,24; July 1,8,15,22,29

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
June 3,10,17,24; July 1,8,15,22,29

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
June 4,11,18,25; July 2,9,16,23,30

† Thursday: Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Tuesday of month 4:30PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
July 8 No mtg. in June

St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Prayer Meeting

7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connolly (814) 866-0505
June 5,12,19,26; July 3,10,17,24,31
(Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
John Griebel 825-3588
June 5,12,19,26; July 3,10,17,24,31

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
June 6,13,20,27; July 4,11,18,25

Center to host Day of Renewal

By Liz Geary

You are invited to save the date of Saturday, September 6th, 2014 on your calendars. The Word of Life Renewal Center is hosting a **Day of Renewal** from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM at St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community Center, and we are inviting everyone to attend. The featured speaker, Renée Marazon from the Diocese of Toledo and former Charismatic women's retreat speaker for many years, will be giving three talks on the title, "Fully Catholic, Fully Charismatic." Bart Foradora and friends will be leading praise and worship during the day and leading a PraiseFest to cap off the day. Prayer teams will be available during the day to pray for your intentions and/or for healing.

Please join me at St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community Center for this Spirit-filled day. You will also be welcome to have your confession heard at St. Joseph Church starting at 4:00 PM and to celebrate mass at the church at 5:15 PM.

The registration fee will be \$20 per person and a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the ministry of the Word of Life Renewal Center. Those attending are invited to a "brown bag" lunch with the Center providing drinks. A registration form will be available in the August edition of *Reflections*.

Praise the Lord! Now and forever!

By Jane Guenther

Pope Francis, in his January 28 homily, shared on the importance of freely praising God in our prayer, and warned against an attitude which can be judgmental of others who do not follow certain "formalities." He said, "You're able to shout when your team scores a goal, and you are not able to sing praises to the Lord? To come out of our shell ever so slightly to sing (his praise)? He gave a compelling homily highlighting that it is not difficult to pray in thanksgiving or in petition, but when it comes to prayer of praise we leave it "aside – it does not come to us so easily." He reminds us, "Prayer of praise is a Christian prayer, for all of us."

Practice makes perfect. Since we aspire for heaven, where we join the angels and saints in praising the Lord, we should join in more fervent prayer praising the Lord now.

Adapted from Pentecost Today, Vol. 39, Number 1, Spring 2014.



Independence Day, July 4, 2014

America's powerful document

One of the few remaining copies of the Declaration of Independence was put on display last October in Phoenix. A reporter for *The Arizona Republic* asked 11 citizens why the document was still relevant today. Here is a summary of their comments:

"It is like a Bible that has been in the family for generations."



"It is one of the world's most precious documents."

"It is a living breathing document with basic values underlying it."

"It began with some rabble-rousers who believed we should be free, that we should be able to choose our own destiny."

"The document is very much alive. It's organic. It is not archival material. It's real."

"I think the overwhelming message of the declaration is that it's okay to disagree with the government."

A pastor, Dr. William H. Stewart Sr., of the First Institutional Baptist Church, summarized the general consensus with these words: "It is one of the greatest documents that has ever been written about people seeking freedom from an oppressive power."

While political and personal freedoms are not the equivalent of spiritual freedom in Christ, they are blessings that should be available to all. Jesus, after all, identified himself as one coming to "proclaim release to the captives" (Luke 4:18).

Is God calling you to prison ministry?

The Word of Life Center is entering into a process in order to help potential volunteers discern if they are called to help in prison ministry, either in Albion with men and/or in Cambridge Springs with women. This ministry is in an active growth stage. If you have ever felt or are feeling called to this work, we would encourage you to please fill out the following discernment tool and forward it to the Center using the envelope enclosed in this edition of *Reflections*. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Center directly. Please try to have this paperwork to the office no later than June 30th. Thank you in advance for answering God's call and considering to work in the vineyard of this vital ministry. If you have answered "yes" in the form below, additional discernment paperwork will be sent to you to aid in this process. Once that discernment paperwork is received, you will be contacted by one of the prison ministry coordinators in order to continue the discernment process by scheduling a face to face conversation. May God bless you.

(Cut on dotted line and return bottom portion)

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

MAILING ADDRESS

E-MAIL ADDRESS

_____ I am not called at this time, but please accept this donation to assist with the costs of prison ministry.

_____ I am interested in further pursuing volunteering with the prison ministry of Word of Life. Please send me discernment paperwork by way of _____ mail (or) _____ e-mail*.

* Choosing e-mail saves the Center on postage costs. Please choose this method if possible.

_____ I am interested in prison ministry; please accept this donation to assist with the costs of this ministry.

Prayer Brunch

SPONSORED BY WORD OF LIFE
CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CENTER

DATE: 6/21/14

9:30—NOON

Held at **St. Joseph Bread of Life
Community Center**
147 West 24th Street, Erie PA

- Fellowship
- Brunch
- Praise & Worship
- Talk
- Prayer for personal needs

Brunch fee: \$8.50
Must accompany reservation.

A free will offering will be taken.



Susan Yurkewicz

Susan Yurkewicz lives with her husband Stephen and their seven children in Erie, PA. Though she's up to her eyebrows in laundry, school art projects, dishes and sports schedules, she has managed to carve out time to write her first book and do that which she passionately believes in: *encouraging others to utilize and share their God-given talents*. Susan's blog, HarborlilyCreative.com, is where she shares her maternal wisdom and "keeps it real" as she lives out her own life and mission.

Susan has recently written a book titled: "Triumph: A Story of Finding Hope in a Love That Knows No Bounds" (Foreword by Fr. Larry Richards). It's a personal story which offers a universal and powerful message of hope. The Yurkewicz family was expecting their seventh child in 2008 when their son was diagnosed with a chromosomal defect – Trisomy 18 – a condition doctors told us was "incompatible with life." Susan shares the journey through that pregnancy, joy-filled birth, and the heart-wrenching farewell to their son a mere 48 hours after birth. Their incredible journey not only impacted their family, but profoundly touched their community as well. Susan will share this powerful story of hope and healing during this presentation. You won't want to miss this powerful testimony so get your reservations in early.

Please keep top portion for future reference

Prayer Brunch Registration Saturday, June 21, 2014

\$8.50 _____

**Deadline for registration is
June 16, 2014**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone No. _____

**Make checks payable to Word of Life Center and send to:
Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504**

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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

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Volume XXVIII

Issue No. 6/7



Will you, not
revive
us again, that
your people may
rejoice
in you?
PSALM 85:6, ESV

June/July 2014