



Reflections

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Word Of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center June / July 2017

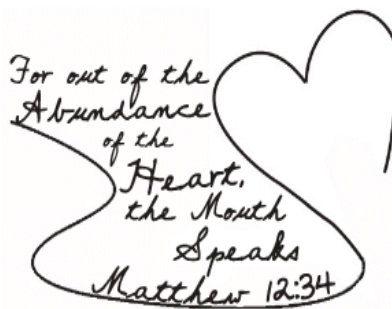
PRAYING IN TONGUES By Kathy Wilcox

We recently presented a Life in the Spirit seminar at the Cambridge Springs women's prison. The most difficult talk and teaching is on Praying in Tongues because it is not something that can be taught. The reason for that is because **Tongues** is a **GIFT**. We cannot order it like we do a pizza. We cannot buy it. We can desire it, and welcome it, but not demand it. It is not something we want to "prove" that we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, in his book, *Sober Intoxication of the Spirit*, explains that charisms such as tongues are not demonstrations of the Spirit in us, they are manifestations of the Spirit of God in those who surrender to Him. Our relationship with God depends on our openness to Him. Only an empty vessel can be filled. We must be ready to empty ourselves of everything that is not of Him. We need to give up our sins; we should surrender our thoughts, the secrets in our hearts, and finally our desire for control. Cantalamessa chose the word "intoxication" to explain how completely we should surrender to the Spirit of

God, entering into "a state in which a person feels possessed and led by God."

Why does God use our tongue as a manifestation of his Spirit? Well, why is our tongue important to us? Speech is how we communicate. Every time



we open our mouth the power of speech allows us to speak what is in our minds, share our knowledge, speak our hearts, our needs, and even our pain. We can use our mouth to praise others, or to gossip about them or even to curse them or verbally attack them. The most important thing to remember though is that we **DO** have control of what comes out of our mouth.

If letting go of control of our speech to the Lord is a barrier to praying in tongues, we might want to consider how easily

some people slip into profanity, and allow Satan to curse God with their mouth. Matthew 12:34 (NIV) reminds us that "*the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*" So if we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, our mouth will burst into praise for God!

There are many stories of people who accepted salvation and were then immediately overcome by Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues. But the fact of the matter is that it does not come that easy to most people. As with any spiritual gift, it requires stepping out in faith. It is like jumping into deep water when learning to swim. We have practiced the moves, and mentally want to do it. But until we jump in and trust our body to do what it is supposed to do, and have the water to support our body, we will never really swim.

If you have not yet received this gift, pray and surrender control. You will be amazed at how your spiritual life can move to a deeper level. God never disappoints.

MORE THAN CHOCOLATE (PART TWO) by Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD

In the May 2017 issue of Reflections we included the first part of Jaci's article on fasting. It told about her experience of fasting during Lent a few years ago. That Lent she decided to give up more than chocolate or sweets; she gave up things that she knew would be very hard to give up. These were things that would cause her the most pain. This article is a continuation (with some editing) of an excerpt from a talk she gave in Erie in 2016.

prayer & fasting

As I persisted with my fast I literally FELT a parting of spiritual clouds. Things became quieter; I became quieter. My spirit became quieter. Things and concerns of the world had been cleared out and, all of a sudden, there was more space for God. Fasting allowed me to clean my spiritual house and create a clean and less cluttered space for the Holy Spirit to enter into. Now I could hear God in a way that I had never heard Him before. I could understand and discern better. Spiritual knowledge and revelations about things came to me in a very clear way, and I had a spiritual strength and resolve that I always THOUGHT I had. But now I was really experiencing it. There are reasons that Jesus fasted and told His followers to fast. For me, it was like someone turned down all this

noise that I never knew was there because I was so used to it, and I turned up the volume of the Holy Spirit. It became so quiet and so much easier to hear. I was joining my suffering to Jesus that Lent. But, you know, Jesus is never outdone in generosity; I was immediately filled with new graces that I didn't even know existed. New consolations. That Lent continued to be a great battle between very Dark Nights of the soul (as St. John of the Cross puts it) and very beautiful graces and consolations. I wasn't only fasting for *me*; I was fasting for people who needed these graces.

When Holy Week approached, from Palm Sunday until after the Vigil on Holy Saturday, I felt led to fast the whole week on bread and tea alone. Again, out of love, I really wanted to walk with Jesus during His Passion. During that Lent I felt a grace that assisted me. I have continued to do this for a number of Lenten seasons.

That Easter was like no other. I had experienced my first real "Lent" where I died to myself with Christ. I truly felt resurrected with Jesus in a new way on Easter, in a way that I had never experienced. I was suffering the death of my marriage. I was medically sick, but the resurrection joy that filled my Spirit that Easter is completely beyond my ability to describe. The stone had been

rolled away from MY spiritual deadness! And the burial shrouds around my own soul had been thrown off and laid there next to Christ's! I overcame the death that I didn't even know was there, by dying to myself and suffering with Christ. And Jesus resurrected me from my grave with Him on Easter. I can say with every fiber of my being and more, that this is what Lent is meant to be about. Not giving up chocolate.

When I tell this story it is not because I am boasting. It is because I am encouraging you. I tell it because I have realized the *power in prayer and fasting*, and I would like YOU to get the spiritual big guns out. I want people to be spiritually healed, and to fast and pray in earnest for the Church, the lost, our country and the world.

Continued on page 3

C
**KEEP
CALM
AND
START
FASTING**

**Fasting is a power
that the devil has
a hard time fighting;
it is an offering that
is pleasing to God.**

The practice of fasting with prayer is found throughout the Bible in the Old and New Testaments. Moses fasted before receiving the Ten Commandments. Ezra fasted while mourning over sin. Queen Esther fasted for the safety of the Jews. And there are examples of fasting in the N.T. also. For example, Church elders in Antioch fasted before sending out missionaries. And Jesus went out to the desert to fast and pray

as he did battle with the devil. Furthermore, Jesus said that there are certain spiritual battles that can be won ONLY by prayer and fasting.

Many today are under the erroneous impression that fasting is an old-school practice that has no modern relevance. But this is wrong! We need it possibly more than ever before. I think that fasting was a *normal part* of what the early Christians did. It was simply a holy habit that strengthened their faith. So let us seriously consider prayer and fasting in our lives.

*Prayers
Go Up
Blessings
Come Down*

WHAT ARE WE TO DO? By Sandy Greggs

Peter was having an amazing day. He converted 3000 people by answering their question, "what are we to do"?

People still ask that question today. Our world is brimming with anxiety, tumult and outrage. The daily news is a horror story unfolding before our eyes. We are devastated and we wonder, "what are we to do?" Peter and the other apostles were feeling fearful and overwhelmed. No wonder they hid themselves. They too feared persecution and the fact that they could be put to death.

That's when Jesus, the risen Christ, appeared to them. They couldn't believe their eyes. But there he was standing in their midst, through locked doors. He showed them his hands and his feet. He offered them the gift of peace. Jesus is standing in our midst today offering his peace and his Holy Spirit. He shows us his hands and his feet.

But, are we like the people in Mark 6:6 which reads, "*he was amazed at their lack of faith.*"

Do we really believe that God is in control no matter how the circumstances appear? Are we living like our citizenship is in heaven? Or are we clinging to life on earth, with all its trappings, as if there were nothing more? And we ask, "what are we to do?"

I suggest finding a quiet place to read and contemplate Scripture. Let go of anything negative and make room for God. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what it is that is missing from your faith journey. Allow him to possess you and give you peace. Allow him to love you.

By doing this we should be ready to share our faith and give a reason for our hope. We probably won't convert 3000 people in a day, but who knows? At least, like Peter, we will be prepared to answer the question, "what are we to do?"

HEALING MASS

Our Lady of Peace Church
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM
Cancelled for July & August

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

We can conceive of no higher calling than of being in the service of God, and we believe that the least of God's servants is richer, stronger, and nobler than any earthly monarch who does *not* serve God. How rich and strong and noble then must the good and faithful servants be, who serve God as unreservedly and completely as they possibly can.

St. Louis de Montfort

Grace does five things: first it heals our soul, so that secondly we will do good, thirdly actually do the good that we will, fourthly persevere in doing good, and finally come to glory.

St. Thomas Aquinas

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 Lake Rd. & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel (814) 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. Andrew Chapel

(formerly Leopold Center group)

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
1116 West 7th St.
3:15 pm (after Mass)
Mary Lou Peterson (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:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM
Pat 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 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 (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/>

SOUL SEARCHING

By Amy Mosbacher

We make time for whatever it is we really want to do. A quick look back at our activities over the past week will reveal our priorities as we see where our time went.

Most people I know lament the state of society today. Politics and the economy seem to be going downhill, no one has enough time to do anything, and such a moral relativism has gripped society that everyone lives by their own truth. And there seems to be a sense that if someone just acknowledges God, then they're going to heaven. Because, honestly, we're good people and we try not to hurt anyone, right?

Our kids grow up running from commitment to commitment, all of which are probably good in themselves, but put together run us ragged. Kids also take their example from us. They complain about the things we complain about and emphasize the things we hold important. So when kids hear us gripe about having to go to Mass on Sundays or holy days, or hear us diminish the importance of religious education, then they won't hold those things in high regard either.

Catholic Mass attendance is plummeting every year. Trying to get kids to religious education is a feat in itself. So how about us? Are we among the over-committed people who rush our kids places, but who don't have time to carve

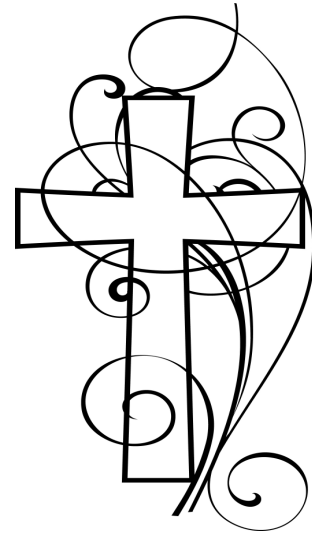
an actual time-frame, an on-the-clock-space in our day dedicated to God? Do we think our kids are going to grow up and magically hold Christian values and get to heaven? Let's look at it another way.

Once a rich young man asked Jesus what he had to do to get to heaven. Jesus said he had to follow the commandments, to which the young man replied he'd done that since he was little. Then Jesus continued, *"There is still one thing left for you: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then, come, follow me."* (Luke 18:22.) **Follow Me.**

So it's not enough to have a list of things we didn't do to hurt others. Being good alone isn't enough for people who believe in Jesus (I'm not talking about non-Christians here. That's another topic). Christianity agrees that we are good people, but then takes it one step further. We are good, but broken people, whom Jesus came to restore. God wants us to be passionate for Him in return, or at the very least take time in our day to speak positively about Him to our family and friends.

God offers us forgiveness and healing; the world says we don't need it and tries to convince us to use anything but God to fill the empty space. Are we okay with that? If not,

then what are we willing to change in our lives to show God that He really does mean something to us?



Prayer Brunch

Save the Date

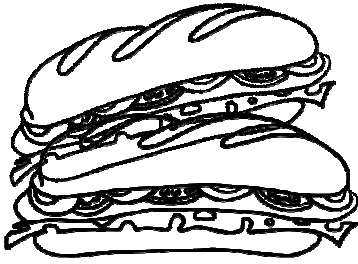
the next prayer brunch
will be held on Satur-
day, August 26, 2017
at St. Joseph/Bread of
Life Community.

9:30 to Noon

Cost: \$8.50

The speaker will be
announced in the
August newsletter

A TALE OF TWO SANDWICHES By Agnes D. Helsley



We have heard the negative admonition “No good deed goes unpunished.” Right?? We laugh and discuss our experiences to prove the saying. A recent event brought it to mind but I found God stripping away the negativity and bringing me to see His economy – always a positive lesson to face and an opportunity to grow if we are willing.

One of the people in our Bible study group was relocating to be closer to family. Of course we needed to gather for a going away party and I was ordering subs for part of our refreshments. Choices fell to usual combo subs, vegetarian and one ham and cheese. Even at my advanced age I am still a novice at many things. Do not assume. Assumptions cause trouble.

Having failed to request that the subs be marked with their type on the wrapper (surely they would deem it necessary to identify each sub). I did request that the subs would be cut in half. When the subs arrived we had a dilemma. Surprising how lettuce, oil, and tomatoes can disguise the

contents of a sandwich. In the process of identifying the subs I determined the ham and cheese sub to be a vegetarian. Under the plethora of lettuce I failed to see the ham. I was irate. I called the restaurant and demanded a new sandwich be delivered and they could have the “bogus” sandwich back.

Lo and behold (and 45 minutes later) I had a twin to the one I gave to the driver. Could I have made a grievous error? Yes! I did! Was I humble and did I admit my error to the group? No, I am ashamed to say. I carried the heavy load of shame to protect my pride. After all, my pride, my organizational skills, my ability to judge the contents of a sandwich were all in question. Do you think I take myself too seriously?

It was hours later before I could admit my error and begin the restoration of my peace. I was so engulfed in self-pity and disdain for the lack of efficiency of restaurant staff that I could not see that God was saying “Get real, Agnes, your pride is your problem. Accept, admit and repent. Get back your peace.”

There you have it—our Father is always guiding us and willing to show us a life lesson if we are paying attention.

Want chips with that sub? No, thanks, I’ll take peace with humble pie!

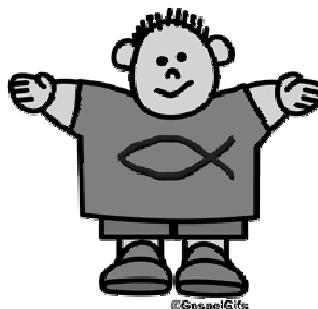
Summer is here!

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30



**CHRISTIANS
AIN'T PERFECT
BUT JESUS IS!**

UNDERSTANDING THE JEWS By Jack Heintzel

I wonder if we as Christians need a better understanding of the Jewish people, since our Savior, Jesus Christ, was one of them. The material in this article, taken from the Catholic Near East Welfare Association's magazine, should help us. The name "Jews" has a long, distinguished history, so let us learn from what is presented in this article by Msgr. Robert Stern.

The word is rooted in the name Judah, which refers both to one of the twelve sons of Jacob (also known as Israel) and the Israelite tribe that traced its ancestry to Judah. After the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan, each tribe was given a territory. From that point on, "Judah" refers not only to a son of Jacob and to a tribe but also to a geographical area. After the death of Saul, the first king of all the Israelites, David of Judah succeeded him. Initially, he ruled all Israel, but this unity was short-lived. A few years later, all the Israelite tribes except Benjamin rebelled against David's grandson, and the Israelites became permanently divided into two separate kingdoms.

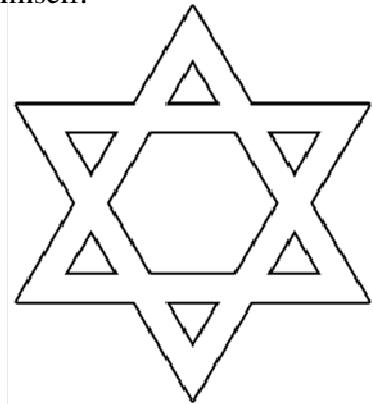
"Judah" now begins to refer also to a geopolitical entity, the southern kingdom. The northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 721 B.C. Until that time the Bible refers to the people as Israelites. It was only after the

conquest of Judah that we find the people referred to as "Jews" and the land as Judea. "Jews" now means the people of God---worshippers of the one God and practitioners of the religion, Judaism.

In the New Testament it is not so clear what "Jews" means. For example, Jesus and His apostles are called Galileans. This seems to distinguish them from Jews in the sense of people from Judea---yet they are all, religiously speaking, Jews. At times "the Jews" are portrayed as hostile to Jesus and His disciples. This seems to refer to the official religious leaders, especially those who collaborated with the Romans. Criticism of the "the Jews" cannot refer to *all* Jews.

At that time, Jews were divided by doctrine and practice into Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes. Jesus' followers formed a new group, messianic Jews, later called Christians. The Bible gives many references to criticism of Jesus by Pharisees and Sadducees. Later, hostility broke out between them and Jesus' followers. Then "Jews" came to mean the ones in opposition to the Jews who followed Jesus. After the destruction of the Temple, the Pharisee school survived and evolved into modern Judaism. The missionary, expansionist part of the Jewish family became Christianity.

Unfortunately, the ancient differences and hostilities survived rather than the unifying, common traditions and faith. For many, "Jews" became a pejorative, negative term. Msgr. Stern, the article's author, says "it is baffling how a Christian can be anti-Semitic. I think it means he hates himself."



**WITHOUT GOD
our week would be**

SINDAY

MOURNDAY

TEARSDAY

WASTEDAY

THIRSTDAY

FIGHTDAY

SHATTERDAY

**7 days without God
makes one Weak**

DIOCESE OF ERIE

WORD OF LIFE

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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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