



# Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

*"Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)*

## JEANNIE By: Dr. Jacqueline Phillips

I had a different article prepared. But here I am writing about something more difficult and something much more personal. Jeannie. Those of you who have attended Word Of Life events or attend St. Joseph's Bread Of Life, know that I, and all those who loved her so much, suffered a great loss in the last month.

Jeannie Mlezcko, who was part of Harmony's House and also led the music for the 11am Mass, passed away on Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup> following a *very brief* battle with cancer. Yes. I know that Jeannie is with God. I'm fairly sure she is taking snap chats with Jesus and singing with the contemporary part of the heavenly choir. I am actually so happy for her, and even envious in many ways. But because death was never supposed to interrupt that relationship of love we carry for people in our hearts, to say that I miss her is completely inadequate. So many of you who have suffered loss know exactly what I mean. Thank you to all who have reached out to me during this very difficult time.

I have known Jeannie for well over 20 years. We have sung together for over 20 years. And we have been friends for over 20 years. Jeannie was a walking New Testament. Her presence showed people what it means to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. Jeannie loved in a way that few people are capable of and she walked in the abandoned joy and love of the Holy Spirit.

Some people talk about love; some people want to love, but don't know how; some people aspire to love; but Jeannie just loved!

I recall talking to her on the phone just a short time ago. I was praying and reminding God how full of love for everyone she was. When I finished, she was crying and she said... "That's true. I really do love people. At Outback when I see people at a table who clearly love each other, I get choked up and I say a little prayer of thanks to God for these people who love each other." Jeannie just loved.

I could share so many things that it is hard to choose. But, I would like to share some of Jeannie from the perspective of Harmony's House, of which I am honored to be a member. This group is the absolute epitome of four women who love each other so very much and love worshiping God together. It never mattered that two of us were Catholic and two were Protestant because we all had the same love of the same Jesus.

When we practiced, before we sang, we always checked in with each other. Typically we took turns having a difficult day or week. We took time to talk and minister in love to whoever needed it before we ever began to rehearse/worship. Sometimes it would be all laughter. Sometimes there were tears. Most often it was a mixture. One thing that Jeannie did in a way that no one else could is she make all of us laugh. When I had to put my dog down last fall, she showed up to practice wearing shorts and black stockings with music notes all over them and then proceeded to model for pictures. Jeannie just loved.

Harmony's House has always had a oneness to it.

There was never any of the typical ego or one-upmanship you see with a lot of musicians. Each one of us would graciously yield to another and build each other up. We were truly all in one A-CHORD! *HA! Jeannie would LOVE that one!* I actually can hear her saying "Get it? *One ahhhh-CHORRRD,*" and then laughing her beautiful laugh.

In the midst of loving each other and putting the others before ourselves, God anointed our worship. We had what came to be known as "rainbow moments." It first occurred during one of our songs where we were busting out some awesome three part harmony with Ellen tapping along. We all just stopped in our tracks at the same time as if we were observers instead of musicians, recognizing that the *sound* was *beyond* what just 4 of us could do... There was silence as we all basked in the recognition of the glory of God... until Ellen broke the silence and said... "THAT... was a RAINBOW!!!" So every time that would happen, one of us would say... "Uhhh... rainbow!..."

During the week when we weren't practicing, we would group text and remind each other how much we loved each other. Ellen would tell us she was craving more rainbows. We couldn't wait for practice on Monday night to see these other people we loved with the love of God and to lift our gifts in worship to the God we love so much. Monday nights were our favorite night of the week. "Lean On Me" became our little signature song and we would because we really leaned on each other.

*Continued on page 2*

spontaneously start to sing it all the time, like when we were just setting up equipment, or when someone was down. It was the perfect song

Tears are flowing as I write this. I need to add that I am quite certain that Straight Ahead, another (all boy band, except her) group Jeannie sang with for several years, feels the same loss that myself and Harmony's House feels.

There is just so much more I could write about Jeannie: about our goofy-face pics, Dub-smash, reading scripture at Perry Square in the [very] early morning hours of the National Day of Prayer, how Jeannie just poured love on a beautiful homeless soul and her husband and they ended up coming into the Church at an Easter Vigil, and her closeness with her daughter Kelsie is something I can't even find words for (so beautiful). Then there's working the overflow, singing at the

Church picnic antics, much laughter, some tears, shared shoulders, neck rubs for our mutual bad necks, much love, much wonderful silliness, and much worship. Perhaps someday I will tell the story of Jeannie nearly sending me to the Emergency Room, but not now. But it did happen and you should just laugh anyway (again, I can hear and see her laughing) because it really was hilarious [in hindsight].

Two things in closing. If I could strive to bring some of the love and joy of the Lord that just dripped from Jeannie to the people around me, I think I would be doing well. I will pray for that.

Finally, many people have been asking if Harmony's House will continue. People have been encouraging us and comforting us and we appreciate it so much. Yes. Harmony's House will continue. Jeannie wanted that.

We want that. And we believe God wants that. We feel the absence. So please pray for us. We will be at the Luncheon in August. There has also been talk of a tribute worship concert involving many people on August 28 at Faith Cafe.

Love those people around you. It's really true. You never know how much time you have and it will always seem too short.

***Eternal rest grant unto her, oh Lord.....***



## LESSON LEARNED FROM The Desert- Do What David Did! By: Kathryn Wilcox

It is human nature to take good times for granted until suddenly a crisis takes us into a desert. The desert may be physical, where we are challenged with health problems or financial difficulties; emotional when we are suffering stress, mental instability or grief; or spiritual, which may cause us to question our faith.

The desert walk is difficult; full of suffering, and isolation. Those who have experienced the spiritual desert find that the feeling of isolation can be devastating. Others cannot break through during the desert state of mind, spirit, and body. So, how do we survive? We can try to **DO WHAT DAVID DID.**

David was just a boy when his father sent him out in the desert to take care of the family's flock. It was a lonely place, and David had to learn quickly to deal with the loneliness, fear, and isolation. What did David do?

**HE SANG** - David had a lyre and as he dealt with his situation, he began to sing and wrote down his songs. The Book of Psalms, 1-72 in the Old Testament, are David's songs and prayers. The rest of the book is attributed to a mix of David,

his son, Absalom, and to his Grandson, Samson. It is reported that they were used in the temple for prayer and song. Many of our favorite songs today are based on the PSALMS of David, during his struggles. Some examples are: **On Eagles Wings**; Psalm 19. **The Lord is My Shepherd**; Psalm 23. **Draw me Close to Thee**; Psalm 16.

**HE PRAYED** - David had been properly taught about God, so his songs were the prayers of his heart. Psalm 102: 1-2. *Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you. Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.*

**HE PRAISED GOD** - David's songs were joyful when he was happy. Psalm 145: 1-2. *I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.*

**HE POURED OUT HIS HEART TO GOD** - David held nothing back, he poured out his pain when he was distressed. Psalm 42. *As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for*

*you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night."*

**HE LEARNED TO TOTALLY TRUST GOD.** - Not only was David alone, but he was also responsible for his family's flock of sheep. He had to learn to defend them and even became adept at killing bear and lions. He prayed for strength and God provided.

Psalm 18: 1-2. *I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

Desert times are lonely, painful, and difficult. But David taught us that we are never alone. Our God is there with us, and to get through those times we need to turn to the Psalms where we can learn to **DO WHAT DAVID DID.** Pray, praise, sing and trust the Lord.

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!**

Psalm 150:6

*"as you go!"*

Matthew 10:7

Saturday

August 21, 2021 - 9:30-1:00

**GREATER THINGS LUNCHEON**

**FEATURING**

**Father Joe Petrone**

**COME AND BE BLESSED** and discover the **POWERFUL**  
**WAYS THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN ACT . . . 'AS YOU GO!'**



Fr. Joe is Parochial Vicar at Epiphany of the Lord Parish in Meadville, PA. He is a young, 'on fire' Catholic priest, active in the Charismatic Renewal who desires to see a healed, active, and ALIVE Church! He is excited to share the ways God uses us and how we move in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit 'As We Go' about our lives.

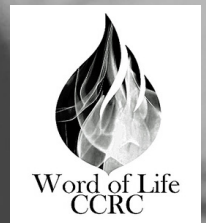
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\*If registration fee is a hardship or for questions, please contact TA at: (814) 833-9717.



## FROM GLORY TO GLORY By: Thomas Braeger

*"But we all are being changed...from glory to glory." 2 Cor 3:18.*

A year ago my wife passed away. During my wife's fight with brain cancer our prayer life went into overdrive. I have to say that during that time I felt immense grace being poured out on us by the Holy Spirit through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes. We prayed to Our Lady each night for two years, along with the daily rosary. We placed our trust in the Lord, regardless of the outcome, as we made this journey, and my trust remains in Him.

After my wife's death. I experienced a truly supernatural healing and acceptance of the loss of this woman who I loved with all my heart. I felt this new and powerful flow of grace in my life and I wanted more. Much more! In response, I was trying to live in a fast-forward mode that is hard to describe. It was like I was in a "race for more grace." I have always been a type-A person with a desire to go after things with gusto and vigor, so during my new experiences with the Holy Spirit, it was no different as I was being set on fire.

After my wife was called home my prayers continued. The grace and the power of the Holy Spirit got stronger and stronger. Much stronger! Soon, I was practically bursting to talk about the Lord. I felt like Jeremiah (20:9):

*But if I say, "I will not remember Him Nor speak anymore in His name," Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am tired of holding it in, And I cannot endure it.*

So many people go through difficulties, but, having gone through this, I know that there is *much* hope in the Lord and I longed to tell others to open their hearts to receive His grace. It is freely given and the Lord is waiting with open arms. Love Him, trust Him, find your strength in Him, and receive His strength through the Holy Spirit.

As I continued to follow and be open, the Holy Spirit knew exactly where to lead me; I was led to Catholic charismatic renewal through Word of Life Center. I felt like these people somehow understood what I was going through spiritually this has only proven to be truer over time. Learning about the role of the Holy Spirit through Word of Life had an immediate spiritual and life-changing impact on me. Something that I knew was there suddenly became real. It

also allowed me to use my God-given talents within a great evangelistic ministry. My extreme enthusiasm led me to pile other various ministries on my plate while my mind raced to think of what additional work I could do in the Lord's vineyard. It would be accurate to say that I had the gas pedal punched to the floor with very little steering. ***Then came my Baptism in the Holy Spirit.***

I was prayed over at our prayer group meeting at Holy Rosary during the same week as my Baptism and both experiences brought me a feeling of great and powerful peace. I was given the word to "stop striving during the prayer and just receive." When I relaxed and ceased striving, the physical and spiritual calm that came over me felt almost like floating. I had never 'rested in the Spirit' before, but when I did, the feeling lasted well into the next days. As I sat on my back porch that night, reflecting and peaceful, words from the Holy Spirit came to me: "Slow down and live in the moment." Our risen Lord gave the greeting, "*Peace be with you.*" These words now had a whole new experiential meaning to me. I knew the Lord was telling me that I needed to slow down, get out of the way, and take time to listen.

I considered the story of our Lord with Mary and Martha. Martha was busy getting things ready for the Lord while Mary was sitting with Him. He clearly tells Mary that she has chosen the better part; absorbing the presence of the Lord. The importance of spending quiet time at the feet of the Master became apparent. I knew my lesson was to balance receptivity versus activity, and allow the Lord to speak to through the Holy Spirit. The Lord knew what I needed to hear and gave it to me through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Life In The Spirit in Warren, PA, was another spiritually life-changing experience. The power of the Holy Spirit when gathered together with others is actually an incredible experience. "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*" (Mt. 18:20). My whole prayer life changed. It became an *interaction*. I used to pray my prayers and I know that God was there. Now, I start with quiet reflection followed by prayer in tongues and just praising God. I now feel the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in a different way. The old way seems like

black and white compared to the new full-color relationship with God.

Little did I know how God would continue to lead and bless me when, shortly afterwards, I attended "Fan Into Flame," led by Pat Montefiori and Jaci Phillips, also of Word of Life. Fan Into Flame was POWERFUL! It nourished my hunger to experience the Holy Spirit more deeply while fellowshiping with others. Jaci and Pat talked to us about all the gifts of the Holy Spirit in great detail, with many examples of how they have experienced and witnessed these Gifts. (Listed below). It was immensely practical, inspiring, and helpful. They asked us to be open to whatever God wanted to give and to prayerfully accept as we prayed for each type of gift and had the opportunity to step out in these Gifts in a safe and nurturing environment. People experienced the Gifts of healing, prophecy, tongues, faith, and wisdom.

I had a powerful experience when we broke into groups of two. Imagine sitting next to a mostly a complete stranger and praying to the Holy Spirit to give you five words of knowledge about the other person or related to them in some way. We just wrote them down, one by one, as they came. Once you each had five words we were asked to share with the other person and have them confirm or disconfirm the words in order to learn from the experience. My partner, who did not know me, described me in as being a "go-getter", (as I described myself earlier above), compassionate, and one who likes to teach. (Teach, as in how I am writing this article to share with you now. Um, *yeah*, that's me.) The Holy Spirit 'read my mail' to my group partner!

We were filled with increasing faith in the Gifts and power of the Holy Spirit when we gathered back together and discovered that all the pairs of people had five out of five words that spoke to them in profound way. Wow! The leaders encouraged us to continue to "learn what the voice of the Master sounds like, and FOLLOW IT! Use it in ministry with those God places in our paths." It was a powerful day.

When we do sit quietly with the Lord, HE WILL speak to us. Believe and Trust!

*"Be still and know that I am God!" Psalm 46:11*

*Worthy of it All!*

Adoration with live  
worship and  
Eucharistic Procession



# **ADORATION WORSHIP CONCERT**

**Worship by Harmony's House with violinist, Louis  
Nicolia and organist, Corey Spacht**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021  
7 PM - 9 PM  
ST GEORGE CHURCH, ERIE**

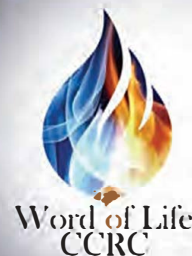
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# GREATER IS HE!

Annual 'Greater Things' Conference



**Date & Time: Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 9am to 3:30pm**

Location:

Our Lady Of Peace Parish, 2401 West 38th Street, Erie PA

**Sponsored by:**

**Word of Life Center Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center**

Registration online here : <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/4013914>

**Call TA Walkiewicz at 814-833-9717 to register by phone**

**Early Registration Fee \$20 prior to October 16th (Lunch Provided)  
\$25.00 Regular Registration fee from October 16-20 (Lunch Provided)  
\$15.00 walk-in fee for registration the morning of the event (Lunch not included)**

**By mail: Send contact information and enclosed event fee  
(check payable to Word of Life CCRC) to: Word of Life  
Charismatic Renewal Center  
St. Mark Catholic Center  
429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514**



*Speaker:*

**John Beaulieu**

Come and discover the powerful reality of knowing the effect of truly understanding that "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (1 JN 4:4). Comprehension of the deep deep love of God for us through Jesus leads the way to restoration, healing, confidence in Christ, and boldness. "Perfect love casts out"... things that bind you!

**Worship Music by Harmony's House and violinist, Louis Nicolia**

## Speaker Bio:

John Beaulieu has been sharing the love of Christ and witnessing about the power and person of the Holy Spirit with youth and adults for the past thirty-six years. He spent over 17 years working parishes in Texas, Colorado, North Carolina, and Ohio developing thriving youth programs. In 2003, John returned to his Alma Mater of Franciscan University of Steubenville to serve as the Director of Youth Outreach in the Christian Outreach. Currently, John is the Director of Evangelization and Formation in the Office of Outreach and Evangelization and has served as Adjunct Professor, teaching Youth Ministry in the Catechetics Department. John speaks to thousands of teens and adults each year at parish, diocesan, and national retreats, missions, and conferences through his ministry, Romans 5:5.

# upcoming events

## First Saturday of the Month Mass in honor of Our Lady

9:00 AM at St. Gregory's, Northeast, PA  
Sacred Music beginning at 8:50 AM  
Music provided by: Soloist, Jacqueline Phillip;  
Violinist, Louis Nicolai and Organist Corey Spacht  
Celebrant: Rev. Jerry Priscaro



Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group  
**Holy Rosary Church**  
2701 East Ave, Erie PA

Tuesday - August 10, 2021  
Worship 6:15 Mass 6:30

## *Spirit Filled - Healing Mass*

Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group  
**Holy Rosary Church**  
2701 East Ave, Erie  
Worship 6:15 Mass 6:30  
Tuesday October 5th, 2021 -

## *Worship Concert*

**St. George's Church, Erie PA**  
Thursday, September 16, 2021  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

## *Greater Things Conference*

**Our Lady of Peace Parish**  
Saturday, October 16, 2021  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM



Jesus, Son of God, in whom the fullness of the Divinity dwells, You call all the baptized to "put out into the deep," taking the path that leads to holiness. Waken in the hearts of young people the desire to be witnesses in the world of today to the power of your love. Fill them with your Spirit of fortitude and prudence, so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation. Our Savior, sent by the Father to reveal His merciful love, give to your Church the gift of young people who are ready to put out into the deep, to be the sign among their brothers of Your presence which renews and saves. Holy Virgin, Mother of the Redeemer, sure guide on the way towards God and towards neighbor, You who pondered his word in the depth of your heart, sustain with your motherly intercession our families and our ecclesial communities, so that they may help adolescents and young people to answer generously the call of the Lord. Amen.

—John Paul II—

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JUNE - JULY 2021

*"as you go!"* Matthew 10:7  
Saturday  
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The office is generally open limited hours.  
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.

**This newsletter may be copied to put in  
churches or shared with others.**

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### FORMATTING

Loretta Laufer

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