



# Reflections

Word of Life  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

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June/July 2015

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

## Spiritual Bullets

Amy Mosbacher

The family in Ukraine thought the cease fire would bring a moment of peace. Instead, just hours before the cease fire was supposed to take effect, a bomb exploded near their house killing all three of their children. Where was their peace now?

As I watched their story on the news my heart ached for them. I thought of how comfortable I was in my own house with no fear of missiles overhead and no sword-brandishing militants threatening me. It would be so easy to turn off the news and ignore it. Yet the news reaches us now from every corner; it's not so easy to ignore, so there must be a reason. To think "They're across the world and not affecting me, and I can't help anyway" is not putting enough faith in yourself and God.

Think back to the big wars our country and world, like World War II for instance. News about the war came over the media of the time, which persuaded the home-front to be supportive in a variety of ways. My grandma went to Western Cartridge Company and helped make bullets for our soldiers.

Could she see exactly who those bullets were going to? No, but she knew she was doing her part and somehow her efforts were helping.

Isn't it the same with us? Perhaps we can't go off and help make weaponry for wars across the oceans, but the news about the battles still reaches our living rooms. We still know about families that lose children in Ukraine, people beheaded by ISIS, and all sorts of stories that show the true horrors of war. If these stories are brought to us then we, in knowing about them, as Christians are obligated to do something. The least we can do is pray, thus showing solidarity. We can send our spiritual bullets up to heaven and God can direct them to where they are needed most. Most likely we will never see the good they do until we reach heaven. It's our job to trust in God and have faith that what we do matters. Nothing, not even the littlest sacrifice, goes unnoticed by our Father. We mustn't belittle ourselves and say that what I do doesn't matter. It's true that God is sufficient by Himself and doesn't need us. But He chooses to use us, and if we offer our

Father nothing, then He has nothing to work with. But if we offer Him even a little He takes it, and just like the water changed into wine at Cana of Galilee, He multiplies our efforts and makes them larger and beautiful. With them He can repel the evil forces at work in our world. And if it seems that our prayers have no effect, may He use them to do some greater good even if we don't understand.

"Prayer joined to sacrifices constitutes the most powerful force in human history."

~St. John Paul II

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## Prayer's power

Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer.

— Elisabeth Elliot



## Centering in

By Jack Heintzel

### Special notice

We regret to announce that Liz Geary has resigned her position as Administrator of the Word of Life Center, effective May 1, 2015. Liz has been a tremendous asset since assuming this position three years ago. But she has been troubled with illness for the past four months. Although her health has improved, she feels that she is no longer able to function as a full-time Administrator. She has offered to consult with us as the Center continues to function with volunteer help. Thanks, Liz, and we thank you for all your contributions.

### Please pray

We ask for your prayers for the Center as we go forward. Consider praying and fasting every Wednesday for the needs of the Center and the Renewal in our diocese.

### Coming events

- Prayer Brunch –  
Aug. 22 at St. Joseph/BOL Community
- Day of Renewal –  
Oct. 17 at St. Joseph/BOL Community

### Prospering the Renewal

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal, begun in 1967, is on a journey toward its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. The committee of Catholic Leadership Groups in the Renewal has designated 2015 as the Year of Unity. The National Service Committee invites us to use the

theme of unity in all our events this year.

Jesus prayed in John 17 that we all be one. It is not simply a call for a superficial mixture of elements into a tenuous combination; it is a call to a union that is as complete as the union between the three persons of the Trinity. God has called us to an almost inconceivable task that is only possible through the grace that He bestows. Here we will look at working on unity within the Renewal, with the Roman Catholic Church, and within the Body of Christ.

**Within the Renewal** we can do several things that will help foster unity.

- Try hard to repair broken relationships where differences on issues, or perhaps even the sin of pride, have separated us from others.
  - Reestablish relationships that have simply gone fallow from neglect.
  - While respecting the diversity in the Renewal, we can affirm our roots in baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Lordship of Jesus.
- Within the Catholic Church** we can

- Repent of two equally unacceptable and seemingly opposite ways of doing business. We can stop trying so hard to “fit in” that we abandon the prophetic role that the Holy Spirit and ecclesial leaders in the Church have called us to live, and we can work hard to avoid pride and exclusivity in how we see ourselves in relationship to Church

structures and other Church members.

- We can also work hard to be an integral part of the Church’s mission, including the current focus on the new evangelization.
- We also can strive to bring healing to the wounded within the Church’s ranks. As we become active team members in mission, unity with others will improve.

Let us work to be authentically Catholic and authentically Charismatic. It is very important for all of us to pray that the Renewal becomes more prosperous and dynamic, and that God will have His way with us.

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### **Like father, like child**

As we celebrate Father’s Day, we likely see traits in our dads (or other father figures) that we hope to be known for ourselves: integrity, gentleness, a great sense of humor, a love of learning, a humble spirit.

Amy Grant’s song “Father’s Eyes” tells of a young girl who wants nothing more than for others to recognize her father – and her heavenly Father – in her. “When people look inside my life, I want to hear them say, ‘She’s got her father’s eyes.’”

What characteristics of God your Father are reflected in your eyes, heart and life? And what godly qualities would you like to cultivate?

May others see our heavenly Father in us!

## Grapes from the grapevine

By Agnes Helsley

Thought I would share some nuggets of wisdom from Joni Earickson's devotional "Pearls of Great Price." This is a poem written by a then ninety-year-old Englishman named Ernest Barkaway. He told Joni that when one of his kidneys was removed, he received a blood transfusion: "I watched the drops trickle through the tube, and I thought of all the people – male and female, English and foreign, black and white — who had given freely of their life blood for my need." He then added, "How much more Jesus gave freely of his life blood for my deepest need!"

They say that I am growing old, I've heard them say times untold,

In language plain and bold -- but I am not growing old.

This frail old shell in which I dwell is growing old, I know full well!

But I am not the shell.

What if my hair is turning gray; gray hairs are honorable they say.

What if my eyesight's growing dim; I still can see to follow Him

Who sacrificed His life for me – upon the Cross at Calvary!

Why should I care if time's old plough has left its furrows on my brow?

Another house, not made with hands awaits me in the Glory Land.

What though I falter in my walk and though my tongue refuse to talk?

I still can tread the narrow way;

I still can watch and praise and pray!

The robe of flesh I'll drop and rise to seize the everlasting prize.

I'll meet you on the streets of gold and prove I am NOT growing old.

Joni adds that as she was writing this addition to her devotional she learned of Mr. Barkaway's leaving his earthly home to take up residence in his heavenly mansion. She encourages us to write a note or make a call to an elderly friend to cheer them on the journey. The Lord knows we all need the friendship of fellow believers as we travel on. We can add a little SONshine to their day!

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### A prayer for an Independence Day celebration

Lord God Almighty, in whose name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant, we beseech thee, that we and all the people of this land may have the grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



July 4, 2015

## Pope's Pentecost Message

"The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost is an invitation to us to have the same encounter. It is the Holy Spirit which makes it possible for us to live lives of sacrificial love, holiness and service in a world that God still loves – a world into which He still sends His Son, through the Body of Christ, the Church – of which we are all members." *Address to the Charismatic Renewal Conference, 2014.*

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### Patriotic trivia

As we celebrate America's birthday, it's interesting to note that clergymen wrote both the Pledge of Allegiance and the hymn "My Country Tis of Thee." Rev. Francis Bellamy wrote the pledge in 1892. Rev. Samuel Francis Smith wrote the hymn in 1831. Both men were Baptist ministers.

The pledge was first used in public schools in 1892 during Columbus Day observances. "My Country Tis of Thee" was used as a national song before "The Star-Spangled Banner" was named America's national anthem in 1931.

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### Our need for quiet prayer

"God is present in moments of rest and can give us in a single instant exactly what we need. The rest of the day can take its course, under some effort and strain, perhaps, but in peace."

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

### Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace

2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. 7:30PM  
Wednesday June 3, July 1

### 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

Requested by

John Benecki

Jack & Jean Heintzel

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.

**All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator**

**For all I have not seen.**

**– Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**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 7,14,21,28; July 5,12,19,26

#### **Acts II Community**

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM  
West 8<sup>th</sup> & Powell Ave.  
Jack Heintzel 838-1325  
June 7,14,21,28; July 5,12,19,26

### † 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 1,8,15,22,29; July 6,13,20,27

#### **Leopold Center**

1017 West 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary  
At 3:00PM (before Mass)  
June 1,8,15,22,29; 6,13,20,27  
(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 8,22; July 13,27

### † Tuesday:

#### **Son of God Prayer Group**

Holy Rosary Church  
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM  
Pat Montefiori 823-3968  
June 2,9,16,,23,30; July 7,14,21,28

#### **Chosen Prayer Group**

St. Theresa Church,  
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon  
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519  
June 2,9,16,23,30; July 7,14,21,28

### † Wednesday:

#### **St. Mark's Prayer Group**

St. Mark Church 7:00PM  
Religious Education Center  
Emporium, PA  
June 3,10,17,24; July 1,8,15,22,29

### † Thursday:

#### **Wildfire Prayer Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month 4:30PM  
5031 W. Ridge Rd..  
S.S.J. Living Center  
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165  
June 11; July 9

#### **St. Boniface PG**

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM  
John Griebel 825-3588  
June 4,11,18,25; July 2,9,16,23,30

### † Friday:

#### **Light of the World Community**

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for  
Location 7:30PM  
Bob Zimmer 868-5344  
June 5,12,19,26; 3,10,17,24,31



## Do you pray in tongues?

By Kathy Wilcox

“Tongues” is one of the Word Gift charisms given to the Church at Pentecost. Most of us who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit have received this gift. We in Catholic Charismatic Renewal teach and encourage this charism in others. The question is are we personally comfortable with this gift and are we using it the way we should? A quick check might be how often we each personally pray in tongues? Is the answer just at prayer meetings or at Charismatic events? If this is true, then the next question is why this charism is not an active part of our daily prayer?

Maybe we need a better understanding of this precious gift. Yes, it is a GIFT! We can desire it, welcome it but not demand it. Raniero Cantalamessa, PFM, in his book, *Sober Intoxication of the Spirit*, explains that charisms 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, 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.”

If letting go of control of our speech is a barrier to praying in

tongues, we might want to consider how easily some slip into profanity, and allow Satan to curse God with their mouths. Matthew 12:34 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!

Linda Schubert, in her little book: *The Gift of Tongues*, says that praying in tongues will “open the doorway to miracles! Linda further explains that mature use of this charism can open us to receive other charisms as we pray.

Linda teaches that we should begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to deepen and guide our prayer time, inviting the Lord to expand our understanding of and use of tongues. We should also take authority over any negative spirit activity that would interfere. Then she encourages us to pray in tongues until the Holy Spirit stops us. In tongues we praise God, offer intercession for others, lift up our own and others’ physical needs, do spiritual battle, overcome temptations, and ask for spiritual enlightenment and mental clarity. Then we can review the images, scriptures words and visions received during our prayer session.

Who knows us better than the mind of God, who understands the needs of those we pray for better than God? “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans (Romans 8:26).”

**Well, kiddo, it’s you and me!”**

T.J., a boy with developmental delays, is featured in *Chicken Soup for the Soul; Children With Special Needs*. T.J. and his father, who’s long yearned for a son, settled into a routine of daily outings.

Stacey, one of T.J.’s sisters, was moved when she realized how much their father loved that together time. One day, as their dad made T.J. laugh, “T.J. stopped and reached up to softly touch our father’s face,” Stacey writes. “My dad looked down at him and said... ‘Well, kiddo, it looks like it’s you and me for the rest of my life.’ There wasn’t a sense of sadness or burden in my father’s voice, only acceptance and unconditional love.”

Our Father God says the same to each of us: “Well, kiddo, it’s you and me forever!” No matter our weaknesses, our differences or even our tendencies to avoid time with him, God speaks with complete acceptance and love. He loves being with us --- just as we are --- and rejoices to be our Father forever.



**June 21, 2015**

## **Charismatic Renewal at the heart of the Church**

By Bishop Sam Jacobs

*Bishop Jacobs, now retired, was Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux and also in Alexandria, both in Louisiana. He has long been a leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.*

How can we bring the grace of Pentecost into the heart of the Church?

As a prayer community:

1. You are a ministry, not a club. The community must never turn in on itself, but must remain a ministry for the parish: prayer ministry; ministry to the sick; involved in the teaching ministry; in the work of evangelization; in the ministry of social justice and peace; involved in the RCIA.
2. Be welcoming, inviting and evangelistic;
3. Be fully charismatic when you gather for prayer.
4. Offer regular, authentic teachings and formation.
5. Respond to the needs of one another.
6. Offer the Life in the Spirit seminar regularly.
7. Incorporate all into the full life of the community.
8. Read *Fanning the Flame* and *Christian Initiation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit* by Fr. Kilian McDonnell and Fr. George T. Montague.

The Spirit guides and renews the church, which is always in need of reformation. The Second Vatican Council was the work of the Spirit renewing the church. In the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church the Council stated: "When the work which the Father had given the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the Pentecost in order that He might forever sanctify the church....He (the Spirit) furnishes and directs her with various gifts, both hierarchical and charismatic, and adorns her with the fruits of His grace. By the power of the Gospel He makes the Church grow, perpetually renews her, and leads her to perfect union with her Spouse."

But to correct what is not normative and to reestablish what is normative Christian living is difficult because change is always difficult and resisted. Normative Christian living calls for a radical change in one's values, lifestyle and relationship. Radical change is radically resisted. But nothing is impossible for God. To make a corrective adjustment to a course of action is to bring the person back on the mark.

I believe that the Spirit is doing just that in our lifetime. We are called to be authentically who we are – Spirit-filled Christians, cooperating fully with the Spirit as He reforms and renews us and the whole church. I believe the grace of Pentecost – the Baptism in the Holy Spirit – is truly at the heart of full Christian life, thus at the heart of what it means to be fully charismatic.

I believe "that he who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 1:6)

I remind each of us that as we accept and respond to the challenge of God to bring this grace of Pentecost into the heart of the church, we do all "in the power of the Spirit and out of complete conviction." (1 Thess. 1:5)

*Bishop Jacobs, now retired, was Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux and also in Alexandria, both in Louisiana. He has long been a leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.*

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### **What's missing?**

While teaching a Bible college class, Donald Miller conducted an interesting experiment. He told students he was going to leave out one important truth and that they should try to detect it. Miller then talked about people's sinfulness and our need to repent; he read Scripture and stories; he discussed the reward awaiting us in heaven.

Not one of the 45 students realized their professor had left out Jesus. "I had said nothing about his love, his life and incarnation, his death or his resurrection," Miller says. "I had said nothing about our need to ... have his righteousness cover us."

Miller, author of *Blue Like Jazz*, says he could probably conduct the same experiment from Christian church pulpits, and few people would notice or be upset. Faith should be a relationship, not a formula, he argues, and it's hard to have a relationship when you leave out Jesus.

# Women's Prayer Brunch

**DATE: 8/22/15**  
**9:30—NOON**

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

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

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

**Brunch fee: \$8.00**  
**Must accompany reservation.**

**A free will offering will be taken.**

**Men are  
welcome  
at this  
brunch.**



**Deacon Jerry Peterson**

## **July Speaker: Deacon Jerry Peterson**

Jerry has been an ordained permanent deacon in the Erie Diocese since 2001, and is currently assigned to St. Jude Church in Erie. He also assists with Communion calls at Health South hospital, and is regularly involved with the Catholic Services ministry at the State Correctional Institution at Albion. His talk is entitled "Raised Wit Love." and is based on Luke 1:38 and John 15:16. It will center on his family, including his uncle, Fr. Jim Peterson. He was raised by devout and holy parents, Jack and Dorothy Peterson, who instilled in him a strong Catholic faith. He has a devotion to the rosary, and is blessed with opportunities to honor Mary, our Mother.

He is a life-long resident of Erie, and attended school at Blessed Sacrament, Cathedral Prep, and Gannon University. Jerry and his wife Joan are the parents of three children and have three grandsons. Deacon Jerry is an elementary school teacher in the Erie School District.

Please keep top portion for future reference

**Prayer Brunch Registration  
Saturday, August 22, 2015**

**\$8.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for registration is  
August 17, 2015**

**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 16514**

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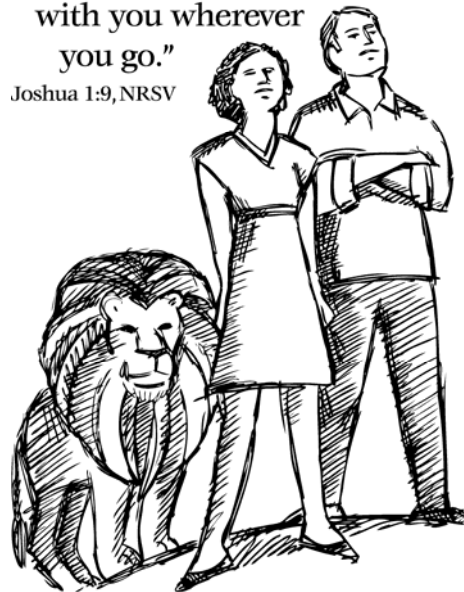
The purpose of this newsletter is to  
proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to  
provide teaching, news and calendar of  
events, which help to foster Catholic  
charismatic renewal throughout the diocese  
of Erie.

Editor: Jack Heintzel  
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**"Be strong and courageous...**  
for the **LORD** your God is  
with you wherever  
you go."

Joshua 1:9, NRSV



*JUNE/July 2015*