



# Reflections

Word of Life  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

June-July 2016

## Now is the Time to “Go to War – In Jesus’ Name”

By Kathy Wilcox

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. (John 1:1-2)”

The world was created through Jesus and life, both physical and spiritual, come to men through Him. He is God, the second person of the Trinity. This is His world, and when man succumbed to temptation and fell under the influence of Satan, the battle plan to reclaim His kingdom was initiated.

The plan was laid out carefully and given to trusted keepers of the Truth - the prophets - who carefully recorded it over thousands of years. There are over 365 prophecies in the Old Testament scriptures concerning every aspect of the plan, defining His identity so that when he came, believers would know Him.

The mission was salvation. God confounded the world and came as a child. Angels were the first feet on the ground, announcing the plan to the virgin mother, and Joseph, the foster father. The child was

given a name when an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him the name of the child, Jesus, which in the Greek means “the Lord saves” (Matthew 1:21). The name and the mission were the same.

Jesus brought the power of God into this fallen world. He is the King who came and reclaimed His kingdom. The power of Satan was broken on Calvary. When Jesus died for our sins the gates of Heaven opened, and the full power of God became available to the residents of the world. We who have been saved by Him are now in His army, and we have been given the task of bringing freedom to those who are still held captive.

In Jesus’ Name we can bring truth to the captives. When we speak the scriptures, we are speaking God’s words and His words will set them free. Jesus said, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:32).”

In Jesus’ name we can bring physical healing to others. We read in Acts 3:1-8 how God healed a cripple through Peter, who said, “in the name of Je-

sus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Peter took him by the hand and helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong and he began to walk and jump and praise God.

When a soldier goes into a hostage situation to rescue someone, he is given the authority of the government he represents, and the forces behind him to support his actions. When a Christian prays in Jesus’ name he is given the authority to speak, cast out demons, heal and pray for salvation for others, and the support of the angels of God to carry out God’s will in these situations. There is no doubt that we are in enemy territory and fighting a spiritual battle with the forces of evil. Yet we need not fear. When we act in Jesus’ name we are protected. The enemy has already been defeated. Our task is to bring Jesus’ message to those who are still held captive and are not aware that salvation and freedom are available to them if they repent and believe **in Jesus’ name.**

## Centering In

### Important Dates

Here are upcoming events you should be aware of. Please pray that God will bless them.

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Life in the Spirit day at Albion men's prison.

June 11<sup>th</sup> – Women's Day of Recollection at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center at 9 AM (see page 5 for details).

July 29<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting at St. Mark Center at 1:30 PM.

August 27<sup>th</sup> – Prayer Brunch at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center (see page 7 for details)

October 8<sup>th</sup> – Day of Renewal at St. Joseph / BOL Commun. Center.

### National Conference

We want to remind you again that the National Leaders' and Ministries Conference will be held on November 4-6, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. All are invited. For details, visit [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org) or call 800-338-2445.

### Board Members

Here are the current members of the Word of Life Center Board of Directors:

Chair: Fr. David Poulson

Vice Chair: T.A. Walkiewicz

Secretary: Pat Montefiori

Treas: Mary Beth Whitman

Jack Heintzel

Shirley Ireland

Joe Kirsch

Kathy Wilcox

Dan Zuba

## Open Wide the Doors to the Holy Spirit

By Jack Lynch

In a May 29, 2004 Vespers homily, St. John Paul II said "Thanks to the Charismatic Movement, a multitude of Christians, men and women, young people and adults, have rediscovered Pentecost as a living reality in their daily lives. I hope that the spirituality of Pentecost will spread in the Church, as a renewed incentive to prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation."

Pope Benedict added his support in a 2008 address to participants in a meeting organized by the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships: "We can, therefore, rightly say that one of the positive elements and aspects of the Community of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is precisely their emphasis on the charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit and their merit lies in having recalled the topicality in the Church.

Recently, Pope Francis elevated papal encouragement of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to a new level. Before a crowd of over 50,000 gathered in Olympic Stadium in Rome for the thirty-seventh Convocation of Renewal in 2014, Francis exhorted the attendees by saying, "I expect you to share with everyone in the Church the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit." He said the Renewal was "willed by the Holy Spirit to be 'a current of grace

in the Church and for the Church."

Pope Francis encouraged involvement in the Renewal again in 2015, before a group of over 1,000 priests and bishops gathered in Rome for the Third Annual Worldwide Priests Retreat. He said, "I ask each and all of you that as part of the current of grace of Charismatic Renewal you organize seminars of Life in the Spirit in your parishes and seminaries, schools, [and] in neighborhoods, to share baptism in the Spirit ... it is catechesis so that it produces, by the work of the Holy Spirit, the personal encounter with Jesus who changes our life."

Pope Francis identified the Renewal as a "current of grace," rather than merely a movement within the Church. When he spoke in 2015 to the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships in the twenty-fifth anniversary of its pontifical approval, Pope Francis issued an invitation to those touched by the Renewal to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary with him in Rome in 2017.

He said, "Let it not be a celebration of a 'movement,' which you are not! Let be the renewal of Pentecost for the Church and the world.

*(The author commented: why hasn't the Church previously gone beyond blessing and encouraging the Renewal to actively promoting it. Pope Francis' comments clearly indicate things might be changing. NOTE: excerpted from Renewal Ministries Newsletter of March 2016)*

## REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM – A GUIDE FOR US

By Agnes Helsley

I recently received a book from a friend. The book was given to members of her parish by the pastor. The title of the book is *Rediscover Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly. This is an excellent presentation of what we should all be doing as Catholics—not giving up, walking away or in general failing to engage in our faith. In the last few years we have been maligned and condemned for offenses committed by trusted human beings (emphasis on the *human*) within the Church. We have all fallen short of the glory of God, we are sinners saved by grace. (See Rom. 3:23) There have been offenses committed in the past but there are also many things in our past of which we can be proud. Because of our humanity--and God only has human beings to work through--there will undoubtedly be offenses in the future; but we pray there will be glory also.

We can be proud of God using the Church to improve the care of the sick through the diligence and concern of many religious orders as they assign worth and dignity to human life. Our Church has championed education for the common man. According to statistics the Church educates 2.6 million students everyday just in the United States alone. Catholic charities provide meals to the hungry and homeless. Those people are not

asked if they are Catholic, only “are you hungry.”

We need to be reminded of our heritage just as our nation needs to be reminded of our Godly heritage. Kelly takes the stand that the Catholic Church has spent more than two billion dollars settling lawsuits, but not a dime to encourage Catholics to explore the beauty of their faith or to remind the culture at large of the enormous contributions of the Church.

The bulk of this book is truly the story of a soul learning to be the best it can be for the glory of God. It can be achieved through striving to live the Gospel, allowing it to penetrate our hearts and transform our lives. This book is not just kudos for the Catholic Church; rather it is “what is my response to God’s call on my life?” How can I be the best “me?” All for the glory of God.

Kelly’s most important statement in his book, I believe, is this: “The North Star is the only star in the sky that never moves; it remains constant and unwavering, and therefore is a true guide. In the same way, God’s call to live a holy life never changes. In a world of rapid and constant change, it is what is unchanging that allows us to make sense of change. The ideas you encounter may change, your emotions may change, but God’s call to live a holy life never changes. The North Star of the spiritual life is the call to holiness. It leads us unflinching to Jesus who is ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life’ even

when He seems distant or unknown. Holiness and renewal are inseparably linked. Where there is holiness the Church has always thrived . . . when you and I begin to take God’s call to live holy lives seriously, the Church will begin to thrive in new and exciting ways.”

If we are called to be ambassadors of God’s grace and mercy, we must accept the challenge of righteous living. We are to live the Gospel and be that “letter of God’s love to the world.” This is not just applicable to those committed to live as our titled “religious” – priests and nuns. This is for all of us, including laity. And it is possible as we allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in our lives—the empowerment to live the life of Christ’s redeemed people!

-----

### Ungratefulness

A man writing at the post office desk was approached by an older fellow with a postcard in his hand. The old man said, “Sir, could you please address this postcard for me?”

The man gladly did so, then agreed to write a short message and sign the card for the man. Finally the younger man asked, “Is there anything else I can do for you?”

The old fellow thought about it for a moment and said, “Yes, at the end could you put, ‘P.S. Please excuse the sloppy handwriting.’”

*Why is it that we often complain against those who do the most for us?*

*John Yates*

### Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace Church

2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. 7:30 PM

First Wednesday of the month

**EXCEPT** July, August & September

### Contemporary Mass

St. Joseph Church /

Bread of Life Community

11:00 AM every Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word

### Perpetual Adoration

Bread of Life Chapel

St. Joseph Community Center

### Chaplet of Mercy

Every day at 3:00 PM in Bread of Life Chapel

### St. Joseph Novena

St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life

Community

Every Wednesday 7:00 PM

### Memorials

In memory of

Requested by

Mary Beer

Jean and Jack 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.

### The Look of Love

**“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of humankind. That is what love looks like.” - St. Augustine of Hippo**

## 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 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)

1116 West 7th St.

Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

At 3:15 PM (before Mass)

### **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 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month 4:30 PM

5031 W. Ridge Rd..

S.S.J. Living Center

Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165

### **St. Boniface PG**

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00 PM

John Griebel 825-3588

### † Friday:

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

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for

Location 7:00 PM

T.A. Walkiewicz 833-9717



## Tough Love

By Amy Mosbacher

As the Jubilee Year of Mercy progresses and I read more about what mercy is, I realize I will never fully understand its depths. Generally, we consider mercy to be leniency in punishment, or forgiveness where none is deserved. Indeed, those are the main definitions in the dictionaries. Mercy is “compassionate treatment for those in distress,” according to Webster’s, and we embody that in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. But what if someone doesn’t consider themselves in distress?

Mercy doesn’t always come after the fact, after the wrongdoing and the punishment to take place. Mercy can also be preemptive. Imagine if you saw someone bungee jumping. They were talking up a storm about how fun it was going to be, but you notice that the other end of the rope isn’t tied to anything and if they jump, they jump to their death. It would be merciful to tell them about the rope and their impending demise, thus preserving them from death. But what if they don’t want to listen, or insist that the wild ride down is worth the risk, or simply insist that we’re lying to them about the rope and they’ll be fine? It seems crazy, doesn’t it? Yet that is exactly what happens anytime when anyone knowingly sins.

God calls us out of sin back to a relationship with Him. He calls us even before we sin so we can avoid being hurt, but for those times when we don’t

listen He gives us the grace of confession. Our Father does it all for love; He wants what’s best for us. Especially in this Jubilee Year we are called to be merciful as the Father is merciful. Some of these situations are difficult when we try to call others back to God and to a holy way of living. We might see the destructive road they’re traveling on and want to stop them, but they see no reason to turn around, no reason to listen to us or to God. Above all we need to pray and make sure our words and actions are loving, humble and with the right intent. Jesus loved all those He encountered, yet He was constantly challenging them to change their lifestyle, to “*Go now and leave your life of sin.*” Jn. 8:11.

Scripture is full of verses that encourage, even obligate us, to do this. Perhaps the most dramatic is from Ezekiel 33:8-9, “*When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.*” I read all these verses, and I remind myself that most importantly I need to be prudent and not judgmental, or I’ll simply drive them further away. We all have people we pray for to be converted to God, especially those who are near and dear to our hearts; I

know I do. It is infinitely more comforting to me to know that as much as I want them to be in Heaven someday, God wants that a million times more. We can make sure they know (in a gentle fashion) the moral path to God, love them, pray for them, and then leave them in our Father’s loving hands. So let’s *be merciful as the Father is merciful!*

### Women’s Day of Recollection

Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

At St. Joseph / BOL

Community Center

147 West 24<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, PA

For reservations call:

824-1286 or 833-9717

\$20 / person, teens and older.

Please bring your own lunch.

Drinks and snacks provided.

Includes Mass, prayer, talks  
and music, small groups.

Retreat director will be  
Stacy Malesiewski

Whenever God touches sin it is independence that is touched, and that awakens resentment in the human heart. Independence must be blasted clean out, there must be no such thing left, only freedom, which is very different. Freedom is the ability not to insist on my rights, but to see that God gets his.

*Oswald Chambers*

## LEARNING TO PRAISE THE LORD

Sometimes we have trouble finding the words to praise God. We can worship in tongues, hopefully. But we should be able to praise Him in English also, perhaps in an assembly when others are praising at the same time. Maybe this “exercise” will help. Below are some words of praise, names of God, and reasons for praise. Try putting the various combinations of words in these columns together to make a “praise phrase.” These words are only suggestions. Try adding in your own words.

We (I)	praise	You	Father	because of Your	power
	bless		Jesus	because You are	eternal
	worship		Savior		all-knowing
	magnify		Redeemer		love
	glorify		Creator		gentleness
	sing to		Holy Spirit		forgiveness
	thank		Sanctifier		patience
	acknowledge		Shepherd		mercy
	love		Our light		mighty deeds
	adore		Our guide		providence
			Lamb of God		
			Holy God		

---

## TWELVE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Based on Galatians 5:22-23

“The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them.” [*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1832]

CHARITY – our love of God and our loving actions toward others rooted in our love of God.

JOY – delight in our life because we possess God in love.

PEACE – tranquility and calm in our soul because we are fulfilled in God.

PATIENCE – bearing pain in life calmly and in union with Christ for the realization of the good.

KINDNESS – being empathetic, thoughtful, and helpful toward others.

GOODNESS – to do good to everyone without distinction in thought, word, and deed.

GENEROSITY – doing good to our neighbor in every way we can without counting the cost.

GENTLENESS – responding in a measured, thoughtful, yet effective way to pain and opposition.

FAITHFULNESS – ongoing loyalty and devotion to God and loyalty to our neighbor.

MODESTY – showing moderation in our words and deeds.

SELF-CONTROL – controlling our own behavior, especially regarding reactions, impulses, and desires.

CHASTITY – following the law and plan of God in our sexual lives; moderating how we dress and act.

# forgiveness

## Prayer Brunch

Saturday, August 27, 2016

9:30 am — Noon

Being held at the St. Joseph Community Center

147 W 24th Street, Erie, PA 16502

*Sponsored by the Word of Life Center, Erie PA*



### GUEST SPEAKER

Mother and Author of "The Story of My Life: A Mother's Forgiveness",

**BETTY FERGUSON**, has been living forgiveness since her 16-year-old daughter Debbie Gama was murdered in 1975. Ferguson works as an advocate for crime victims and says forgiving her oldest daughter's killer has been the best thing for her heart. *"I learned that forgiveness would set me free. I didn't want to stay mad at my daughter's killer forever because it hurt me."*

### Registration:

**Prayer Brunch— Saturday, August 27, 2016**

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Monday, August 22, 1016**

Make Checks Payable to Word of Life Center

Mail to: Word of Life Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie PA 16514

Name:	_____	\$8.50 per person
Address:	_____	Teens and Older
City/State/Zip:	_____	Men and Women
Phone #:	_____	

**DIOCESE OF ERIE**  
**WORD OF LIFE**  
**Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center**  
429 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16514

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S Postage  
PAID  
Erie, PA  
Permit No. 285



**June-July 2016**

Reflections is published monthly by:  
Word of Life Catholic  
Charismatic Renewal Center  
429 E. Grandview Blvd.  
Erie PA 16514  
(814) 824-1286  
fax: 824-1285  
e-mail: [wolccrc@eriercd.org](mailto:wolccrc@eriercd.org)  
website: [www.wordoflifecrc.org](http://www.wordoflifecrc.org)

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.

Editor: Jack Heintzel  
Writers: Kathy Wilcox, Agnes Helsley,  
Amy Mosbacher

Volume XXX

Issue No. 6/7