



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

March 2013

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

Wonder and Awe

by Amy Mosbacher

"...and delighting in mankind"

Prov. 8:31

As I stand before the microwave waiting for my lunch, I wonder whether we've lost the ability to contemplate. In our world of 30 second advertisements, the 2-minute witness and 5 minutes is too long at a drive-through restaurant, have we lost the ability to look at a static picture for a longer length of time? Can our brains, bombarded as they are with rapid images and noise, still focus on one thing long enough for its depth and meaning to penetrate our hearts leave us with an appreciation for the thing? If we go to an art museum, how much time do we spend with a single picture before moving on?

Perhaps for our Easter preparation this year, we can take time to simply sit before our Lord and consider Him. Whether it be before the Eucharist or a crucifix at home, just look at Him. St. John Vianney asked a peasant once in his church what he did all day before the Eucharist and the peasant replied, "Nothing; I look at Him and He looks at me." What a beautiful example of contemplative prayer! But unless we make time to come to God in our hearts, we won't leave ourselves open to receive the gift of contemplative prayer. We need

to make time for Him whether we're busy working, playing or even resting, and go to that place in our hearts where there is silence. We can rest in His presence because He is always there (we just have to realize it). Contemplation is simply the desire for God; the desire to be one with Him. Perhaps picking a verse from Scripture will help us to be still and know Him better. It doesn't have to be long. For example, the last line of Proverbs 8:31 says "...and delighting in mankind." The words are so few, but how potent! To think that our Lord in all His wisdom, holiness and the beauty of Heaven, prefers and finds His delight in dwelling among His creatures here on earth. Don't just read the line and think, yes, it is true and how very nice, but contemplate it and be overwhelmed by it! The pure God who created us and who knows us to be sinful still loves us so much that He wants to be with us, to enter our reality in time and take on our nature. He takes on the suffering that we created and therefore makes it holy. When we think about the grace He has given us and come to appreciate it, that's when we humble ourselves and fall down before Him and truly cry out, "my Lord and my God!"

Such is adoration with all the praise and worship that goes with it. And from that exuberance, we come once again to the quiet, grateful worship of God that leaves us in awe of Him and His wonders. Praised be Jesus, now and forever!

Walking with God

Enoch, Noah's great-grandfather, lived to be 365. But he didn't die; instead, God "took him away" to heaven (Genesis 5:24). The reason, according to the Bible, is that Enoch "walked with God."

Such intimate communion with God, said Edward Griffin (1770-1837), is very fitly represented by two close friends walking together, engrossed with each other, unmindful of all the world besides."

Griffin added: "When two friends thus walk together they keep the same course, and thus are advancing toward the same object. So the [person] who walks with God is conformed to him in moral character. Benevolence reigns."

Centering In

By Liz Geary

• Urgent need

“...I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matt. 25:36)

The Word of Life Center has a special request for all of you. I am sure that everyone is aware that the Center sponsors Life in the Spirit Seminars at both the Cambridge Springs Women's Correctional Facility and the Albion Men's Correctional Facility on a yearly basis. We are truly blessed with a dedicated team of volunteers who gives of their time to go and bring the message of Christ to those who so desperately need to hear it.

Our prison ministry is definitely a calling from the Lord. I am sure all of you would agree with this. Unfortunately, as you can imagine, we are unable to take up any kind of monetary collection at these seminars to support them.

This is where you enter the picture. This year I am requesting donations to cover the printing costs of the Life in Spirit Seminar booklets for both seminars. The printing costs will be \$265, and as you probably have already suspected, the money is not in the Center's budget. If you could see it in your heart to send in a donation, please use the envelope provided and send your donation with a note “prison ministry.” Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. May God bless you in advance for your generosity. Please also pray for the success of the March 16th seminar in Cambridge Springs.

• Women's retreat countdown

Ladies, it's time to register! Please don't let the deadline for early bird registration, March 8th, sneak by you. The enclosed flyer will give you all of the information you will need to register. Also, please remember that Friday dinner is included this year. I can't wait to see everyone again and to meet our new attendees! I look forward to a wonderful weekend with all of you. Please do not hesitate to contact the Center directly for any further information regarding the retreat.

• Membership dinner

Please save the date for the annual membership dinner meeting scheduled for Sunday April 21st at St. Mark Catholic Center. Members should look for their invitations in the mail in the near future. According to the Center's by-laws, a member is defined as “any person who (a) supports the Center on a yearly basis by monetary gifts and/or pledges, (b) is the liaison to the Bishop or (c) is a member of the Board of Directors.” We will have a review of 2012 and a presentation of the vision for the Center for 2013. The year-end financial statement for 2012 will also be presented. More details will be available with members' invitations.

• Center wish list

Not to sound too needy, because the Center is so blessed with great volunteers and generous financial contributors, BUT we are in need of some items for the office and you may be able to help out with discounts and/or donations.

Any help that you could give would be greatly appreciated. So here it goes in no particular order...

- Shoe tray for boots
- Kleenex
- Wheeled desk chair
- Laptop computer
- TV/DVD player
- Projection screen for song lyrics
- Laser printer
- Large office desk

If you can help the Center out with any of the above items please call or e-mail us. Thank you in advance and please remember to keep the Center in your prayers.

• Happy Easter

The Center staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and blessed Easter. May you have the opportunity to rejoice in the risen Lord with family and friends.

In his book *The Divine Romance*, Archbishop Fulton Sheen describes the Church and the Paschal Mystery in this way. “The Church, like Christ, not only lives, not only dies, but also rises from the dead.” He describes further, “...every now and then the Church must be crucified by an unbelieving world and buried as dead, only to rise again. She never does anything but die, and for that peculiar reason she never does anything but live.” And because of this, “She is therefore not behind the times, but beyond the times, always fresh while the age is dying.” In this way our Church is not dead, she is surely alive!

The Power of Words

by Agnes Helsley

Have you ever thought about the power of the words you speak, sometimes so casually? It was very informative for me to read *Change Your Words, Change Your Life* by Joyce Meyer. She starts with a reference to Proverbs 18:21, which says that the power of life and death is in the tongue. That same scripture passage also says that those who live it will eat its fruit. Now, which do you think would taste better – life or death? We truly need to be mindful of the words we utter; we may have to eat them.

Joyce provides a great examination of conscience. Do we speak encouragement to others or are we spreaders of discouragement? Speaking life and seeking ways to uplift the spirits of others are real blessings to our family, our friends and even to those we contact in daily commerce. A kind word and a smile do wonders in the lives of others. Our world today is filled with too much negativity and sadness. We can spread some joy. As Joyce instructs us, “We should pay a lot of attention to what the word of God has to teach us about the power of our words ... our words are the result of our inner thoughts and attitudes. One might say that our words are a movie screen that reveals what we have been thinking and the attitudes we have.”

Words swirl around us in many ways. We seem always to be in contact, using our words, by cell phones, the internet, texting, e-mail and instant messaging. We in turn are being attacked or comforted by the words of others

by radio, TV and the printed media. Actually, personal privacy hardly exists. We need to consider how to tame our tongue, learning to say what God says. In the opposite vein, we want to avoid letting the devil speak his words through us. Meyer also cautions us to be careful about giving our opinions, quoting Proverbs 17:28 (one of my favorites). This verse says, “Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.”

Meyer is honest as she admits her failings in the use of words. This is good lesson for all of us. Humble admission of failings provides hope for change in our lives. If we heed her teaching, we will be blessed and be a force for good. The world around us would be a better place as a result.

March 1, 2013



I wonder how many people leave the Catholic Church to

Confession

by Kathy Wilcox

avoid confession? And again, how many Catholics do not leave the Church, but just don't bother to go to confession? I have to be honest; I struggle with confession. It is easy to rationalize; convince myself that I am a “good person.” After all, I have never killed anyone or robbed a bank, and I go to Mass every Sunday! So, I'm ok; I don't really need confession, do I?

But What if I do not wake up tomorrow? What will happen when I die? In his book, *“The Other Side,”* Michael Brown relates insights shared by individuals who have died and returned. All agreed on the fact that each individual experiences a “life review” before going to a final place in eternity. The “life review” shows every single person we have EVER encountered and how we affected that person. Was I helpful? Was I kind? Was I nice just because I would benefit from the relationship? (Then even if I did a good thing, it will not count!) Did my actions cause the other person to draw closer to God, or was my behavior responsible for the person sinning, turning away from God? The life review also will reveal every THOUGHT I have had in my life, the good and the bad.

I also had to face the teaching that Purgatory does exist and the souls there

See **Confession** – page 5

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 West 38th St. 7:30pm
Wednesday March 6

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
Irene Janke

Requested by

Jean & Jack Heintzel
Norman & Barbara Schlosser
Belle Chylinski
Carol Mando

Eugene Zarnick
Jerome Hughes
Sr. Mary Margaret Meldon
Gerald Mooney
Harry Staszewski
Jean Coccarelli Pontillo

Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “
Jack & Audrey Reese

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.

**“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are
the Easter people, and hallelujah is our song.”**

— Pope John Paul II

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
March 3,10,17,24

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
March 3,10,17,24

† 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
March 4,11,18,25

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
March 4,11,18,25
(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
March 11,25

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Joe Kirsch 459-7100
March 5,12,19,26

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
March 5,12,19,26

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
March 6,13,20,27

† Thursday:

St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Prayer Meeting 7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Gene Kobal (814) 392-1162
March 7,14,21,28 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
John Griebel 825-3588
March 7,14,21,28

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Administration Bldg.
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
March 14

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
March 1,8,15,22,29

The Value of Suffering

by Jack Heintzel

“...the Lord disciplines those he loves...” Heb. 12:6

In a radio talk, David Jeremiah spoke of the need for Christians to endure discipline from the Lord. This may entail suffering for a while as God works in our lives. Suffering is an inescapable of our lives, but none of us wants suffering and adversity. So why do we need it?

Jeremiah points us to Hebrews, Chapter 12, which says the following: “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!” God disciplines us for our own good, that we may share in His holiness, and this discipline produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained for it. So there is a reason for our suffering.

As distasteful as it is, suffering helps us to become all that God wants us to be. God allows – and uses – suffering for chastening us, and forming us into strong disciples. St. Paul, in Romans 5:3, says we should rejoice in our sufferings, because it produces perseverance, character and hope. Paul knew a lot about suffering as he served God in the spreading of the Gospel. As an example, we can remember Paul’s “thorn in my flesh,” described in 2 Cor.

12:7, where he says God allowed consistent suffering in his life to keep him from becoming conceited.

In a commentary in the Amplified Bible, Joyce Meyer says that a big part of suffering is our attitude toward it. She reminds us that suffering is one of the most difficult things to understand in life. “We know God is good and we know that He sees everything and is all powerful, but why does he allow us to suffer, especially unjustly. This question has been asked by millions throughout the ages: ‘Why, God, Why?’” She says that God does not delight in our suffering, but He is honored and pleased when we endure it with a good attitude. The answer must be in our faith and trust in God. The true test of faith is how we behave during trials. If we knew all the answers, faith would not be necessary. Meyer says that God gave His only Son and allowed Him to go through unspeakable suffering that He did not deserve, and He did it for us.

Let’s consider that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. If we share in His sufferings (Romans 8:17), then we can also share in His glory.



Confession *cont. from page 3*

experienced great suffering. In the book, *An Unpublished Manuscript on Purgatory*, a soul appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and begged her to pray for him to be released from Purgatory. He had been a Benedictine priest and told her that the “greatest cause of his suffering in Purgatory was that in life he had preferred his own interests to those of God, and cared more about his own reputation and was uncharitable to the people in his care.”

I will be judged by “how I have loved.” Luke 10:27 tells us: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;” and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

In light of this, my avoidance of confession is affecting the condition of my soul. Purgatory is full of those who avoided the gift of confession. The unconfessed sins we die with, are the ones that take us to Purgatory or even to hell.

If I want to be in right relationship with God, I need to be honest with myself. Patting myself on the back for not committing murder will not purify my soul. I need to review EVERY commandment of God.



YOU ARE INVITED TO...

Experience the *Holy Spirit* in a new and deeper way



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

at

St. George Church Meeting Room
5145 Peach Street

Sponsored by
Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

Mondays 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
April 8 through May 20, 2013

**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8**

Come to see how you can begin living a NEW, EXCITING LIFE in service to Christ as you yield to the action of the Holy Spirit and experience His presence and power. A series of talks will assist you in establishing, re-establishing, or deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 8 | — Introduction/ 1. God's Love |
| April 15 | — 2. Salvation |
| April 22 | — 3. New Life |
| April 29 | — 4. Receiving God's Gift |
| May 6 | — 5. Praying for Baptism of the Holy Spirit |
| May 13 | — 6. Growth |
| May 20 | — 7. Transformation in Christ |

SESSIONS CONSIST OF:

Praise and Worship
Teaching
Small Group Sharing

There is no charge for the Seminar.

We will accept a free will offering for the support of Word of Life Renewal Center.

For further information call Word of Life Renewal Center at (814) 824-1286
or e-mail wolccrc@eriercd.org

REGISTRATION for LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Date _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Home Parish _____

Send to: Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504

Catholic Charismatic Women's Retreat

April 5th —7th , 2013

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

Family First Sports
Park Dorm Facility

Holy Spirit, Secret Garden: Finding Peace in Everyday Life

Registration costs:

(If deposit is received by date)

Cost of Retreat with a Private Room:

\$100 by March 8th or \$110 after

Cost of Retreat with a shared room (*indicate on form who you will be with & make plans prior to registering*):

\$90 by March 8th or \$100 after

A \$50 deposit is due with registration and the balance is due to the Center by Friday, March 29th.

Dinner on Friday is included. Please bring your own bedding, towels, and toiletries as they are not provided by Family First. Also bring a Bible, notebook and snack to share if you wish.



**Meet your
Retreat Director:**
Stacy Malesiewski

Stacy is a member of St. Gregory Parish in North East where she serves as a lector. Stacy is married and is the mother of three children whom she currently home schools. She works as the Art Director for Gray Matter Media, Inc. She has written many editorials on the Catholic faith and has authored a soon-to-be published book called *A Pilgrim's Journey Into the Divine Will*. Stacy was also the featured speaker at the March 2012 Prayer Brunch sponsored by the Center.

**Praise and Worship by:
Pat Szyperski & Friends
From Toledo, OH**



Books for sale

For further info call (814) 824-1286 or E-mail: wolccrc@eriercd.org

2013 Women's Retreat Registration, April 5th-7th

Date Mailed _____

Have you made a Life in the Spirit Seminar? Yes____ No____

Special physical needs _____
(please indicate if 1st floor is required)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____ Rooming With _____

Please fill in the designated amounts:

Private room: by March 8 — \$100.00 ()

After March 8 — \$110.00 ()

Shared room by March 8 — \$90 ()

After March 8 — \$100 ()

Donation \$ _____ ()

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Send to: Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie PA 16504

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website: www.wordoflifecrc.org

Office hours:
Monday: 9:00am – 2:30pm
T-W-Th: 9:00am – 2:00pm
Friday: Closed

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, Judi Janke, Agnes Helsley, Amy Mosbacher

Typist: Carol Mando

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