



Reflections

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

March 2014

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

Why purgatory?

By Amy Mosbacher

"Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean...." Ps. 24:3-4 NAB

Those are pretty lofty standards for us mere humans. Yes, we have free will to choose not to sin, but it's in our fallen nature to sin. Even after we're baptized and perhaps make frequent confessions, we still sin. And, unless we're fortunate enough to make a worthy last confession, we will most likely die with sins still on our soul. That kind of blocks us out of the above category "whose hands are sinless..." Thank heaven we have a merciful God who doesn't limit us to heaven or hell! Those who, at death, accept God's love and mercy but aren't yet worthy to see Him face to face, are cast into purgatory. While it may sound correct to say a soul is going "to" purgatory, purgatory isn't so much a place as it is a process. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, imperfectly purified souls "*undergo a purification after death*," a state in which they are purged of their sins, hence the name purgatory (#1054).

So where is purgatory mentioned in the Bible? The first mention is found in 2 Maccabees 12:46 (RSV),

"Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead that they might be delivered from their sin." However, this isn't the only place the concept of "waiting souls," souls being neither in heaven nor in hell, is mentioned. Purgatory is also implied in Revelation 6:9-11 and more specifically in 1 Peter 3:18-19, in Peter's letter, after stating that when Christ's body was put to death and His Spirit made alive, "*Christ ... went and preached to the spirits in prison.*"

The question keeps coming up: why do I need purgatory? I have faith in Christ, I've led a good life, that's enough isn't it? A little concrete example of purgatory that I like to use is this: Suppose you're at a friend's house and you have an argument. In a fit of rage you punch a hole in the wall and stomp out. Later you return and apologize (confession). That's wonderful for the relationship, but there's still a hole in the wall. Now you need to repair the hole and clean up the damage (penance). Confession is good for the soul, but doing penance, something to heal the hurt, also brings one close to God. The two go hand in hand. Penance can also be a very humbling experience in which one acknowledges that God is God and

we are His creation, a good viewpoint to have in heading down a narrow path.

This doesn't mean we can err as much as we want in this life and have purgatory as a safety net. According to the saints in their private revelations, doing a little bit of penance in this life can take years off the suffering of purgatory. Why cause our waiting to see God to be longer than needed? Imagine, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Cor. 2:9)

Forgiveness is the key

"If the wounds of millions are to be healed, what other way is there except through forgiveness? Jesus, at least, leaves us no alternative. The command is stern. The terms are set: 'But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.'"

— Catherine Marshall

Centering in

By Liz Geary

- **Prayer Brunch**

Please join me for the spring prayer brunch on March 22nd from 9:30 AM until noon at the St. Joseph/BOL Community Center. Our speaker for the morning will be Bonnie Pratt, Campus Ministry Coordinator at Penn State Behrend. We will also be treated to hearing testimonies from some of the students who attended the “All Things New” retreat weekend. Angelo Phillips will be leading praise and worship, and catering will be provided by April Blum. Reservations should be made by Monday, March 17th. Please look for more details and a registration form on page 7 of this issue of *Reflections*. You may use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter to send in your reservation to the Center. Please consider joining me for this uplifting event.

- **Life in the Spirit**

Please pray for the upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminar taking place at the Cambridge Springs Women’s Correctional Facility on Saturday, March 29th and for the success of the follow-up day scheduled for April 26th. Please pray for the team and the participants, and pray also for a special move of the Holy Spirit for the group.

- **Memorials available**

This is just a reminder to everyone that the Center has memorial packets available. We have seen a decline in the number of memorials being sent to the Center in recent months.

This month has seen an increase over previous months. Praise God! Please consider honoring your loved ones with a donation to the Word of Life Renewal Center. Memorials and intentions are prayed for daily at the Center. Please contact the Center for memorial packets and more information.

- **Postage increase**

As most of you are already aware, there has been another increase in the cost of postage. This greatly affects the budget of the Center. I am asking that contributors to the Center indicate with their contribution if they could be e-mailed their payment acknowledgements (please include current e-mail address) or if the acknowledgement could be done away with altogether. This would certainly help the Center to stay on budget in the postage category. We need to do all that we can to make the most of the funds that are graciously donated to the center. I thank everyone in advance for their assistance with this.

- **Board of Directors**

First, I would like to thank those who serve so willingly on the Board of Directors for the Word of Life Renewal Center. I am so blessed by your generosity and service to the Center and to our Lord. BUT ... and here it comes ... we are in need of more people to take on the task of serving on the Board of Directors. This ministry is vital to the Center, and without a board, the Center cannot operate. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact the Center or Fr.

Poulson for more information. Please prayerfully consider serving by sharing your time and talents in this very special ministry.

- **Volunteers needed**

The Center is in need of volunteers in various areas of ministry. Please call or e-mail the Center if you might be interested in serving in any of the following areas of ministry: newsletter article writing, preparing the newsletter for mailing, event planning and/or event set-up. Events include: the three yearly prayer brunches, the annual Women’s Retreat, and the annual Charismatic Conference. Please consider helping the Center in hosting these events. Contact me at the Center to discuss ways that you might be able to help out. God bless you for helping to keep these ministries viable. Many thanks to those who already volunteer their time and talents to help out the Center. I am certainly blessed by your willingness to volunteer, as are many others.

- **From the Lord**

Recently, as I was in prayer for the intentions of the Center, the Lord gave me a word to share with all of you. I was praying for guidance for all of us as the Center adjusts to the many recent changes, and the Lord said to me, **“Let this be a day of Rejoicing.”** How appropriate for Him to remind us that there is always a reason to rejoice!



Does prayer change things?

By Agnes Helsley

Around the year 1800, William Carey sat at his cobbler's bench repairing shoes and looking at the map on the wall in front of him. He prayed for various nations that were known to be in heathen darkness. His heart was heavy with concern for those people. Then he was struck with Jeremiah 33:3 (The verse commonly known as "God's phone number.") "Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

From that scripture Carey formed the motto for his life – ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD. EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD. Carey left his cobbler's bench but kept the map in his heart. He decided to take the Gospel to the entire heathen world. Quite an ambitious undertaking!

Was he successful? At the time of his decision there were no more than 200 million people who professed faith in Christ. Less than 200 years later there are about two billion people committed to Christ as Savior – a tenfold increase since Carey began his mission. He inspired many others to participate in the great endeavor to bring Christ to a hurting world. He was the first Protestant missionary to arrive in India. The great lesson of his life's work is to expect great things from our great God.

Our God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or think. Consider the limitless size of the universe He

created to display His glory, the countless galaxies with billions of stars which boggle our minds as we begin to fathom them. Consider that He is intimately involved in the lives of all His creation. Father God, be glorified in our lives as we yield to Your Spirit.

Philip Yancey, in a devotional I recently read, brings truth to bear on our recognition of the effectiveness of prayer, "A believer prays, and heaven responds. A sinner repents, and the angels rejoice. A mission succeeds, and God is glorified. A believer rebels, and the Holy Spirit is grieved." Yancey goes on to say, "I believe these things, yet somehow I keep forgetting them. I forget that my prayers matter to God. I forget that the choices I make today bring delight or grief to the Lord of the universe. I forget that I am helping my neighbors to their eternal destinations."

Father, keep us faithful, as You are faithful.

Silent directed prayer weekend for women April 4-6th

The weekend will take place at Villa Rosa, located in McKean, PA. The fee for the weekend is \$100 and includes a private room and all meals. Reservations must be made by March 21st. There are only seven spaces left for this very special weekend. For more information and a registration form please contact T.A. Walkiewicz at (814)833-9717.

The breathing of the soul

Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do in life. The Lord's Prayer was so special in the early church that only the confirmed members could pray it. They believed that spectators and inquirers weren't ready for the power and mystery of the prayer. It was called the "believer's prayer." Even today in the liturgy

of the
Greek
and
Russian



Orthodox Church, the praying of the Lord's Prayer is a moment of awe and mystery as a priest says at the introduction: "And make us worthy, O Lord, that we joyously and without presumption may make bold to invoke thee, the heavenly God, as Father -- and to say, 'Our Father, ...'"

Jesus does not want us to *say* the Lord's Prayer. Jesus wants us to *become* the Lord's prayer. REAL praying is God moving in us through the Spirit. Real praying is the Spirit of God praying in and through us, making us into the likeness of Christ. In the words of Francois Fenelon; "Lord, teach me to pray. Pray thyself in me." Prayer is the breathing of the soul.



March 20, 2014

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace

No Healing Mass in March due to Ash Wednesday services.

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

Wilma Innocenzi

Jennie Boardman

Dolores Bindseil

Helen Kellerman

Joseph Kostek

Charles Stephenson

Chet Coltrell

Rose Marie Burch

Joseph Urmann

Msgr. Homer DeWalt

Maria Heya Karcic

Ann DeFilippo

Requested by

Carol Mando

T.A. Walkiewicz

Sr. Gerry Olon & Sr. Colette Palmer

Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil

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T.A. Walkiewicz

Carol Mando

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.

“There is no revenge so complete as forgiveness.”

—Josh Billings

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

Mar. 2,9,16,23,30

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM

West 8th & Powell Ave.

Jack Heintzel 838-1325

Mar. 2,9,16,23,30

† 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

Mar. 3,10,17,24,31

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.

Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

At 3:00PM (before Mass)

Mar. 3,10,17,24,31

(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

Mar. 10,24

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church

2701 East Ave. 7:00PM

Pat Montefiori 823-3968

Mar. 4,11,18,25

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,

Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon

Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519

Mar. 4,11,18,25

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM

Religious Education Center

Emporium, PA

Mar. 5,12,19,26

† Thursday:

St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life Prayer Meeting

7:00PM

139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center

Regi Connolly (814) 866-0505

Mar. 6,13,20,27 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM

John Griebel 825-3588

Mar. 6,13,20,27

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00 PM

5031 W. Ridge Rd..

S.S.J. Living Center

Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165

Mar. 13

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for

Location 7:30PM

Bob Zimmer 868-5344

Mar. 7,14,21,28

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

2014 Vision Statement

By Liz Geary

First, I would like to thank everyone for responding to God's call with your time, talent, and resources. The Center is very blessed to have so many committed people take part in this ministry. As you have heard me say before, you are the Center; we could not do such good work in serving the Lord without each and every one of you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. As always, you remain in my prayers. God continues to bless this ministry through you.

The year 2014 is shaping up to be year of transition for the Center. We have a new diocesan liaison, Fr. David Poulson, who has been named for a term of five years. Let's take this time to welcome Fr. Poulson! How blessed is the Charismatic Renewal to have him at the helm! God has certainly answered our prayers!

With the retirement of long-time Administrative Assistant, Barbara Schlosser, the Center will attempt to eliminate the position of Administrative Assistant due to lack of finances to fund this position.

The Center also continues to transition from a role of originating Charismatic activities to a role of facilitating others in planning Charismatic activities. Fruits of this transition include: the Albion prison prayer group, the "All Things New" retreat for college students and young adults, the Life in the Spirit Seminar at Holy Rosary, and the

planned prayer group for the Cambridge Springs women's prison, slated to begin this spring. I am also hoping to soon name a prayer brunch chairperson and a women's retreat chairperson to oversee these events. If anyone would be interested in either of these positions, please let me know.

We plan to continue activities including eleven editions of the *Reflections* newsletter, three prayer brunches, Life in the Spirit Seminars at both the Albion prison and the Cambridge Springs prison, the membership/volunteer dinner, the Charismatic conference, Life in the spirit seminars conducted at various parishes, and some type of women's retreat or day of reflection.

Planned additions for this year include the prayer group at the Cambridge Springs Women's Correctional Facility and a possible women's day of renewal.

I will continue to work to maintain relationships with Cursillo, Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Erie Diocese, the Office of Communications for the Erie Diocese, and the Campus ministry program at Penn State Behrend, among other offices and ministries.

I will continue to maintain and update the Center's Facebook page, Twitter account, and web page, now formatted for use with hand-held devices. I would invite you to check out these pages if you are able.

The Center continues to try to "do more" with less funding. Continuing to streamline expenses in every avenue is very important at this time. If anyone has not filled out a pledge card and would like to do so, please contact the Center for the appropriate paperwork.

Beyond finances, I need to address our need for volunteers in key positions. We are in need of people to offer their talents on the board of directors, to serve as chairpersons for events, to be writers for the newsletter, along with many other tasks. Please contact me for more information on how you can use your time and talents to serve the Lord through these ministries.

Thank you again for all of your generosity with finances, prayers, and time commitments. This ministry would not exist and could not continue without it. May God bless you and your families.

This vision statement was given at the annual member/volunteer dinner on January 19, 2014.



March 9, 2014

My journey to “The Way”

By Kathy Wilcox

I watched a movie called *The Way* and liked it. I wanted to know more about it, and in researching the movie I discovered a book with the same title. There is no connection between the two although both are Catholic in origin. I purchased the book, and was introduced to the author, Josemaria Escriva, who has had such an impact on this century that Pope John Paul II canonized him on October 6, 2002, calling him “the saint of ordinary work.” So who is this priest, now Saint Josemaria?

Josemaria was born in 1902 in Barbastro, a small town in Spain, and was raised in a faithful Catholic home. At 16 he was at prayer and was convinced that God had something special for him to accomplish. Because of that, he entered the seminary and was ordained at age 23. By the time he was 25 he had traveled to Madrid to study for a graduate degree in the Law. He was also supporting his widowed mother and siblings by tutoring law students, and in his spare time he had an extensive ministry to the sick and the poor, especially children. He enlisted his law students, professionals, his mother and other women to assist in the mission to the poor. This work was the early beginnings of what became the religious organization, Opus Dei, formally known as the Prelature of the Holy Cross. Opus Dei (Latin for “Work of God”) became an institution of the church and was given final approval in 1950. The basic teaching is that everyone is called to holiness and that ordinary life is

a path to sanctity. Most members are lay people. With more than 90,000 members the society is established in over 90 countries. There are some who have criticized Escriva, accusing him of taking sides in the Spanish Civil war that tore the country apart from 1936 - 1939. I could not find real evidence of this, only that he tried his best to minister spiritually to the needs of the people. He also worked to help the innocent victims of the war, which killed many more civilians than soldiers. We can be sure that his background was intensely scrutinized in the canonization process.

The Way is not really a book, but in the author’s words provide “useful notes for those who want to have an interior life.” I found it a “to do” list for personal sanctity, with 999 pointers. The suggestions are loosely organized into topics, but you could skip around and still be inspired. There are no deep theological concepts here; there are no profound insights – just common sense “helps.” Another of the criticisms of Josemaria concerns his views on mortification. Here are two that are under that topic:

#193- “Don’t be namby pamby! It’s time you get rid of that peculiar pity that you feel for yourself.”

#174- “Don’t say, “That person bothers me. Think: That person sanctifies me!”

Suggestions for personal growth:

#596- “Don’t feel hurt when others see your faults. What should really distress you is the offense against God and the scandal you may give.”

#686- “All right: that person behaved badly toward you. But haven’t you behaved worse towards God?”

Lent is defined as a time for prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial. I will be turning to *The Way* this Lent, knowing that the “useful notes” of Saint Josemaria will help keep me on track!

(Ed. Note: while there have been allegations of secrecy against Opus Dei, we offer this article simply to make the reader aware of the spiritual value of Father Escriva’s writing. We trust that his writing is validated by Pope John Paul II’s canonization of Escriva and subsequent recognition by Pope Benedict XVI.)

Thought for Lent

God gave us life
That we might be
Born into His eternity.

God gave us prayer
That we might know
The way in which
Our souls should grow.

God gave us Christ
That we might see
Invisible reality.

— Jeanne Birrell

PRAYER BRUNCH

SPONSORED BY: WORD OF LIFE CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CENTER

**Saturday, March 22, 2014
9:30am-Noon**

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

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

**Cost of Brunch: \$8.00
Must accompany reservation.**

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

**Praise and Worship by
Angelo Phillips.**

Speaker



Bonnie Pratt

Bonnie Pratt is the Co-ordinator of Catholic Campus Ministry at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. She grew up in a Catholic family in Erie, belonging to St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community. Bonnie attended St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA, where she received a B.S. in Elementary Instruction and a minor in Catholic Theology. Bonnie was very involved with campus ministry as a student, which inspires her in her current work with college students.

The campus ministry recently held their first Life in the Spirit retreat, which was called "All Things New." Some of the students who are involved with the campus ministry will be sharing testimonies. Bonnie's talk is entitled "The Holy Spirit at work in the Millennial Generation."

Get your reservations in early and hear how the Holy Spirit is at work in our young adults. You wont want to miss this exciting program.

Clip and save

PRAYER BRUNCH RESERVATION SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014

\$8.00 _____

Deadline for reservation is March 17, 2014

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 16504

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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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