



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

March 2015

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

Making sense of suffering

By Amy Mosbacher

As Christians we know that Jesus came as one of us and experienced poverty and suffering. His divine touch gave suffering meaning. Until Christ, people didn't necessarily have the hope of life forever with God like we do. (Remember some groups like the Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection.) Consider the following passage from Job:

"Does not man have hard service on earth?
Are not his days like those of a hired man?
Like a slave longing for the evening shadows,
Or a hired man eagerly for his wages,
So I have been allotted months of futility,
And nights of misery have been assigned to me.
When I lie down I think, 'How long before I get up?'
The night drags on, and I toss until dawn.

"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,
And they come to an end without hope.
Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath,
My eyes will never see happiness again."

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Job did not believe he would see happiness again. Sometimes when we're in pain, it seems like pain is all we'll ever know. How true those sleepless nights of Job are! If we don't know the hope Christ

offers, then pain and life can seem pointless. But we know that God created us, and anything God creates has a purpose. Many people today believe that life came to be as a random mixing of elements, an accident in which the survival of the fittest gave us today's society. But something that happens on accident doesn't have a purpose and so it is senseless. As God's creation, we have purpose and a hope in Jesus Christ. Our life and everything in it, including pain and suffering, has meaning if we let it.

Wait -- "if we let it?" Yes, pain and suffering can be wasted if we don't offer it to Jesus. If we keep it for ourselves and hoard it in, using up our energy on self-pity, then suffering can't take on the meaning Jesus could endow it

with. If we offer pain to Him in reparation, for conversion, for all the intentions of His Sacred Heart, then it becomes a priceless offering which He uses for all

souls. No offering is too small or goes unnoticed by Him. Our Father gathers up all our prayers and sacrifices and uses them to keep souls from falling into Hell.

While suffering offered to God is beneficial for souls, it's also beneficial to us as well. How? Humble suffering will mold us into the image of God if we don't draw attention to ourselves. It's more difficult because we don't get the praise of people to fill us up, to ease the hunger in us for admiration or sympathy. We're waiting for our reward from God in Heaven, which is far more valuable, and eternal, than people's praise. But if we choose to advertise our suffering to get attention, then that will be our reward here on earth and we'll have "used up" any reward God would have given us in Heaven. Doesn't an eternal reward make more sense, and be far better, than an earthly one?



Centering in

By Jack Heintzel

2015 events

The Word of Life Center wants to make you aware of these coming events:

- **Women's Retreat** – April 10th, 11th and 12th at Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs. A sign-up sheet with all details is included in this issue. It is necessary that we get at least 50 reservations to make the retreat financially viable.

Note: your reservation and full payment must be received by March 25th.

- **Prayer Brunch** – Aug. 22nd at St. Joseph / BOL Community.

- **Day of Renewal** – Oct. 17th at St. Joseph / BOL Community.

Board of Directors

As determined by the by-laws, the Center is governed by a Board consisting of the following Directors:

Chair: Fr. David Poulson

Vice Chair: Jack Heintzel

Corp. Sec.: T.A. Walkiewicz

Treasurer: Mary Beth Whitman

Others:

Shirley Ireland

Joe Kirsch

Patty Montefiori

Kathy Wilcox

Dan Zuba

The Board meets a few times a year. The by-laws direct that the Chair of the Board shall be the Bishop's appointed liaison to the Diocesan Charismatic Renewal. The Board has been more active recently in taking care of mail coming into the Center's office, and responding to members as needed.

Executive Committee

According to the by-laws, the first four members (officers) listed above make up the Executive Committee, along with the WOLC Administrator. The E.C. is charged with overseeing the daily business activities of the Center. The E.C. has been busy in the past year making various decisions necessary for the functioning of the Center. **Two areas of concern are:** (1) how to increase member participation and (2) how to increase donations to keep the Center operating. We really need more help organizing/running events.

Prayer and fasting

The Executive Committee is encouraging all supporters to **pray and fast** regularly for the needs of the Center. We have set **Wednesday** of each week as a recommended day to pray and fast. (See page 3 for thoughts on fasting.) There are many needs to be met, and we need God's help to do so. All supporters are asked to pray consistently for the success of our activities and help in meeting financial needs. May we please God in all we do as we serve Him.

Prison ministry

We will be having a Life in the Spirit Day at Cambridge Springs on April 18, with a follow up on May 23. Plans are on hold for a regular prayer meeting there.

Activities at the Albion men's prison are going well but prayer is always needed.

NOTE: COLUMN 3 IS DELETED HERE BECAUSE IT IS NO LONGER APPLICABLE.

It talked about bulk mailing changes at the Erie post office, and how we would have to take newsletters to Rochester or Pittsburgh after April 2015. But then I found out that the Erie Post Office WILL accept bulk mail after April. Only sorting operations will be transferred. While this change might delay delivery a few days, there will be no change in the way the WOLC operates. Basically, for us it will be business as usual.

Fasting

By Jack Heintzel

“So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.” Ezra 8:23

The above scripture verse pertains to the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem from their exile in Babylon under the leadership of Ezra. They were given permission to return for the purpose of rebuilding the temple which had lain in ruins for a number of years. This devoted servant of God, at one point in the journey, assembled the people and proclaimed a fast “so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.” (Ezra 8:21) To Ezra, and many other Bible personalities, the idea of fasting at important times seemed to be a natural thing to do. The building of the temple of the God was seen as a very difficult thing to do, and Ezra knew that the Israelites needed the direction and help of their God to make it happen. So he called for a fast to support their prayer. The result of their humbling before God and their fasting was that He answered their prayer.

I wonder if many of us in the Body of Christ today understand the need for fasting in support of our prayer. Do we understand the power of fasting? A book called *God’s Chosen Fast* by

Arthur Wallis gives valuable insights into fasting. As I read this book I was convicted that I need to get serious about it. The author states that fasting *is* important. It is not a major biblical doctrine, a foundation of the faith, or a panacea for every spiritual problem. But when we use this spiritual exercise with a pure heart and a right motive, fasting may provide us with a key to unlock doors where other keys have failed. As Wallis says, fasting can be a window which opens new horizons in the unseen world. It is a spiritual weapon provided by God that can help in pulling down strongholds of Satan.

The author says that fasting is the voluntary denial of normal function so that we can engage in more intense prayer. It helps us when we are involved in serious spiritual activity. I’m thinking these days about the Diocesan Charismatic Renewal and our Word of Life Center. We seem to need God’s intervention to bring more “life” into *our* spiritual activity. How can we improve participation in the Center? How can we become more charismatic, as Fr. Poulson has urged us?

I don’t know the extent of Satan’s involvement in our activities. We know that he is always trying to cause problems,

but if we resist him he will flee (Jas. 4:7). In the Holy Spirit we have the power to overcome him. One way is to get serious with prayer – and fasting. To Wallis, fasting means primarily “not to eat.” He says that there were various forms that fasting took in Bible times, and each involved literal abstinence from food or drink. We can engage in full fasting, as Jesus did in the desert (see Luke 4:2), or partial fasting, a restriction of diet. Wallis states that the partial fast is of great value, especially when circumstances make it impossible or difficult to undertake a normal fast. For an example, see the book of Daniel (10:2) for Daniel’s special partial fast. We can each pray about our own situation and what God would call us to do. The elderly or those with illnesses would have to be careful with fasting.

But the word “fasting” could be widened to include other forms of self-denial if abstinence from food is really a problem for us. I once read about a media fast by a woman who described herself as a “talk-radio junkie” who decided to abstain from radio and television for a time. She came to realize that even permissible things can be subject to greater spiritual priorities. Maybe we would choose to

Cont. on page 6

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday March 4, 2015

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

No memorial donations this month

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.

**“He who died for us is all that I seek;
he who rose again for us is my whole desire.”
– St. Ignatius of Antioch**

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 1,8,15,22,29

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
March 1,8,15,22,29

† 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 2,9,16,23,30

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
March 2,9,16,23,30
(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 9,23

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
March 3,10,17,24,31

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
March 3,10,17,24,31

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
March 4,11,18,25

† Thursday:

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
March 12

St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Prayer Meeting

7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connolly (814) 866-0505
March 5,12,19,26

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
John Griebel 825-3588
March 5,12,19,26

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
March 6,13,20,27

Obedience

By Kathy Wilcox

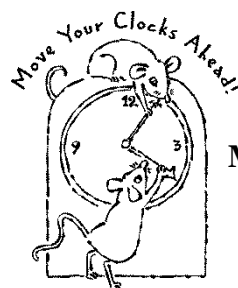
Lent is the time the church sets aside for introspection and spiritual growth. What does this mean? I have to be careful that I am not seeking spiritual experiences but to just be closer to Our Lord. When we first encounter Jesus the joy of His presence is a wonderful experience. But that should be the beginning, like the joy we feel when we hold a newborn child for the first time or on our wedding day with our new spouse. After that first moment we must build a relationship which requires commitment and obedience to the commitment. It is not always a joyful experience to get up to feed a baby at 3AM, or to shovel snow and wash dirty dishes, or to work in a foundry or the third shift in a hospital. But these things are we do when we make a commitment to love and be part of a relationship. We put feelings aside and do what needs to be done.

Jesus asks us for the same kind of commitment. It is not always easy to get up early to pray, read our bible or go to morning Mass, but if we want to be closer to Jesus, we must be willing to invest commitment to the relationship. He already loves us. It is we who need that time, and in moments of prayer, we will be changed. It becomes less about what those moments can give us, and more about what we must give Christ. He shows us that love requires sacrifice and obedience. We will be enabled to love and serve others.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta prayed every day before the Blessed Sacrament and then

went out and served others. She said later in life that for over fifty years she did not experience God's presence when she prayed, yet she was obedient to her commitment to Him so we know that she was being led by Him in the work he called her to do. In her diary she wrote to Jesus: "Your happiness is all I want." Jesus showed us how to love. He did not sit on a throne and expect people to come to Him. He went out and loved and served humanity. Jesus was also obedient to His Father. The best example of His obedience was in the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was God, so He knew what suffering He would soon experience. In his humanity, he struggled against the coming events, and then did what he had to do.

In Matthew 26:36-46 we read that Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." In the end, it is not about feelings, it is about being obedient. The rewards will be many in heaven. How the angels must have sang as they welcomed Blessed Mother Teresa!



March 8, 2015

Part of the deal

Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, spread Christianity in the fifth century, helping people abandon pagan rites. One day, he was baptizing new converts, including the chief of a fierce warrior tribe. Patrick leaned on his staff for support as he lowered each person into the rushing river. As he baptized the chief, he inadvertently pressed his staff firmly down on the chief's foot.

The chief uttered not a word of complaint, but as he stepped back onto the bank, people noticed he was limping. Patrick apologized, asking, "Why did you not cry out when I struck your foot?"

The chief replied, 'I remember you telling us about the nails in the cross. I thought pain was part of my baptism.'

— *Homiletics*

An Irish Blessing

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you.
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you –
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.

Forgiveness is 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 you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

— Catherine Marshall

Joyful generosity

By Agnes D. Helsley

“Thoughts disentangle themselves ...over the lips and through the fingertips.” So Charles Swindoll begins his comments on the subject of giving with the right attitude. He wisely suggests that when we have a problem understanding a matter we should talk it out, or write it out, rather than just have ideas swirling around in our heads. The Bible has some specific advice on giving. It is pretty certain that most of us have heard the scriptural admonition “God loves a cheerful giver.”

It can be difficult to be cheerful about giving when we are looking over the family budget. With our recent sale of our house I had to clear away some tangles. We tithe all monies that come to us, and it was rather hard to look at the money which was to provide us with the means to live above it all – and then take 10% out of it.

Swindoll has suggestions which help to change a grudging giver to a hilarious giver. I am not a Greek scholar but apparently the word “cheerful” originally was translated “hilarious.” It is the only time the word appears in the New Testament. Okay, how do we become HILARIOUSLY generous? I reflected on God’s gifts to me and my family. You know what? I could not outgive God!! He has met our needs; everything passes from His hand to ours.

Then consider how God promises a bountiful return to the seeds we plant. If we plant sparingly, we will reap sparingly. Plant to the max!

We need to examine our hearts. Do I really believe God’s word? Does He keep His promises? What is my motive for giving? Do I realize that the cattle on a thousand hills are His? He can do without my offerings, but can I do without giving to His works? My responsibility is to support the work of God. I should feel privileged to participate in His work. I had a great time choosing the endeavors to bless with God’s portion (basically it all belongs to Him). It is really freeing to let go and trust God. Maybe it’s a little scary, but it’s quite an adventure to obey and watch how God rewards a generous heart.

Fasting from page 3

abstain from music or sleep or certain activities for a while if we believe God is calling us to fast this way.

In Matthew 6:16f, Jesus said to His disciples, “WHEN you fast.” This seems to indicate that His disciples are SUPPOSED to fast. It takes self-discipline and will to discover the power of fasting. Let’s do what God is calling us to do. I’m praying about the best way for me to fast, but I am determined to do it. What’s the best way for you? Will you do it?



March 6, 2015

The cross is pivotal

Pivotal means crucial or absolutely necessary. Such is the cross on which Jesus died. It represents salvation from sin and death. To see sin in all its cruelty and depravity, look at the cross. The cross can jar a person to the core.

In his parent’s bedroom, a teenager noticed a picture he’s never paid attention to before. It was a vivid scene of the Crucifixion. As the boy studied it, his emotions began to stir. He saw the helpless Christ dying, the helmeted soldiers bearing spears, the crowd seething with hatred. Jesus was pinned to the cross, bleeding and helpless. Mary stood nearby consumed by grief.

The picture revealed sin and its results: suffering and death. What if the room had a different picture, with an empty tomb and an angel announcing Christ’s resurrection? Those represent that God loves mankind so much he still wants to save us, no matter what we’ve done.

“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14, NRSV).

Discount for children

The little boy had not been to many worship services.

He thought the offering plate was where one put money for admission to the church.

When the collection plate was being passed along their pew, he whispered to his father, “Don’t pay for me, Daddy. I’m only five.”

Catholic Charismatic Women's Retreat

Sponsored by: Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

*The Inn at Riverside
One Fountain Drive
Cambridge Springs, Pa.*

April 10, 11 and 12

Retreat Director: Stacy Malesiewski

Stacy lives in Elkland, PA and was formerly an active member of St. Gregory Parish in North East. Stacy is married and is the mother of three children. 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*.

Praise and Worship:

Healing Rain with (Jane Dombrowski, Loretta Swartwood & Jessica Young)

Our retreat participants will be the only guests at the Inn so we will have the beautiful setting of the Riverside Inn and the privacy needed for a retreat! Reservations must be received by March 25th. Deposits of \$100 will be accepted with reservations, but the balance must be received by March 25th and no late reservations will be accepted. If we do not receive an adequate number of participants, we will have to cancel.

You will need to bring your bible and a notebook and, if you choose, a snack to share. Any questions: please call 814- 833-9717.

2015 Women's Retreat Registration, April 10, 11 and 12, 2015

Have you made a Life in the Spirit Seminar? Yes___ No___

Special physical or dietary needs? _____

Is 1st floor required? _____ (site is not wheelchair friendly)

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____ Phone_____

E-mail address _____

Rooming With _____

Rooming options & pricing:

2 Bdrm. Unit with 4 people (4 beds): \$170.00 per person

2 Bdrm. Unit with 3 people (3-4 beds): \$185.00 per person

2 Bdrm. Unit with 2 people (2-4 beds): \$235.00 per person

1 Bdrm. unit with 2 people (2 beds): \$195.00 per person

1 Bdrm. Unit with 1 person (1-2 beds): \$285.00 per person

If you would like to make a donation for someone less fortunate to attend the retreat, please include it with your registration.

Donation \$_____ Total Enclosed: \$_____

Mail to: T. A. Walkiewicz, 3656 Bellaire Drive, Erie PA 16504

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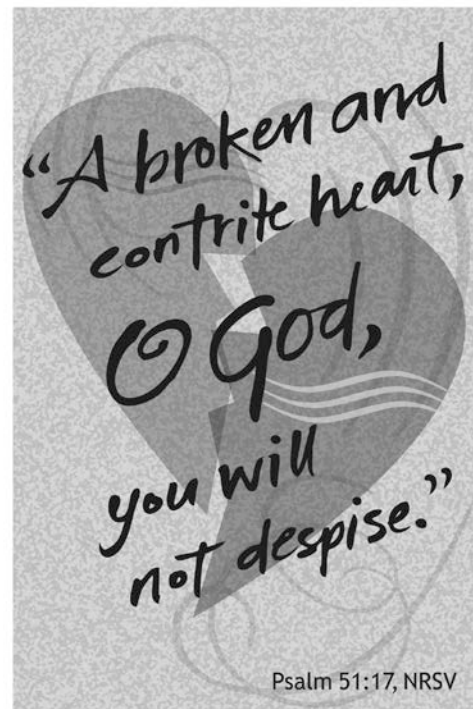
Office hours:
Not currently set

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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