



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

March 2016

Let This Cup Pass

By Amy Mosbacher

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Lk. 22:42). We know the scene: Jesus suffers in the Garden of Gethsemane while His apostles sleep. The image of Jesus bent in prayer is a familiar one; perhaps a picture hangs in our homes of that Gospel passage. We may walk by hardly giving it a second thought, comfortable in the knowledge that Christ drank that cup for our sake and we are saved. But let's not allow our thoughts to end there. Let's become *uncomfortable* with that scene.

Jesus came to save us. The way that happened was through His death and resurrection, Jesus knew that and He was always obedient to His Father. Surely the knowledge of His own obedience, to make up for our disobedience, brought some comfort to Jesus' heart. Surely, as He suffered in the garden, the image of all the hearts who would ever love Him made His task a little more bearable. But then there are the images of ungrateful hearts or hearts grown cold. How stale the taste of uncaring, apathetic hearts, or

worse, the agony which enveloped Jesus at the sound of "I don't need God!" as people walk away from their faith. How many hearts today cry out this refrain as people fill their lives with emptiness?

Jesus knew there would be those who reject Him, and that rejection caused the bitterness of His Passion. "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God," (John 1:12). The phrase "all who did receive Him" automatically implies there are those who don't believe in Him. But why wouldn't God save everyone? Whomever He gives grace will be saved, won't they? But grace can be rejected. The First Vatican Council pointed out, God "confirms by his grace those whom he has translated into his admirable light, so that they may persevere in this light, not abandoning them unless he is first abandoned" (*Decree on the Catholic Faith* 3). Yes, there are souls who are lost, but only because they refused to let God's grace in their heart. God would save us all, but not all wish to be saved.

For those of us whom God made His children, He gave a mission. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," (Mt. 28:19). We can't be comfortable with only our own salvation. The closer we are to the heart of God's Truth the greater our responsibility. Are our hearts thirsting for the salvation of all souls? Are our hearts aching with our Savior's, our Beloved's, in the desire to save souls and thus ease His suffering? Pray for this desire, so when we look at those pictures of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane our discomfort will remind us of our mission.



St. Francis the Preacher

By Peter Herbeck

(Excerpted from Renewal Ministries Newsletter of January 2014, with slight editing.)

“Always preach the Gospel and, if necessary, use words!”

I think most Catholics have heard this quote at one time or another. It's the line we as Catholics like to use when speaking about evangelization. As you probably know, it is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.

There is a double irony in using this phrase. First, St. Francis never said it, and second, it is often used to imply that somehow St. Francis only rarely found it “necessary to use words.” The saint's approach to preaching couldn't be further from the truth. St. Francis loved to preach:

“He filled all the earth with Christ's Gospel, so that often in one day he would make the circuit of four or five villages or even towns preaching to everyone the Gospel of the Kingdom of God: and, edifying his hearers not less by his example than by his words, he had made a tongue of his whole body.” (*First Life of St. Francis*, Thomas of Celano, Chapter IV, #97)

This understanding of St. Francis, given repeatedly to us by his primary biographers and from those who knew him best, is mostly ignored today. The contemporary picture of St. Francis is either focused on

heroic virtues, particularly his lover for the poor, or a more ideologically driven image of Francis as an environmental activist or the patron of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

How did this quote ever end up being the standard interpretive key to St. Francis' attitude toward preaching the Gospel? The quote is not in any of the small number of written documents of letters attributed to St. Francis, nor can it be found anywhere in the *Omnibus of Sources for Life of St. Francis*.

In defending the quote some people point to the command given by St. Francis in Chapter 17 of the First Rule from the year 1221:

“No friar may preach contrary to Church law or without the permission of his minister. The minister, for his part, must be careful not to grant permission indiscriminately. All the friars, however, should preach by their example.”

The point here is that friars are to preach under right authority, whether that be the bishop of a Diocese or the Minister General who has the authority within the order to commission friars to preach.

In saying that “all friars should preach by their example,” St. Francis is simply stating the obvious, that one's life is a message; authenticity of life gives credibility and power to the message. He is not saying that the witness of life, or the “silent proclamation” is to be preferred to preaching, or that preaching should only be done on rare occasions.

In the words of St. Bonaventure, St. Francis was:

“...a sharp sword all on fire, zeal for the salvation of others pierced the depths of Francis' heart in his burning love...If he saw a soul redeemed with the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ being stained with sin, he would be overcome with sorrow, and weep so compassionately that he seemed to travail over them continually, like a mother in Christ.”

With special emphasis, Bonaventure makes the point, “this was the reason he was so energetic in prayer, so active in preaching...Christ gave himself up to death for the salvation of others, and Francis desired to follow in his footsteps till the last.”

St. Francis “gave himself up” for the salvation of others: “...he realized he was sent by God to win for Christ the souls which the Devil was trying to snatch away...he became a herald of the Gospel and he went about the towns and villages, preaching the Kingdom of God ‘not in such words as human wisdom teaches, but in words taught him in by the Spirit’ (1 Cor. 2:13).” (*Minor Life*, Bonaventure, Chapter 2, #5)

(Ed. note: let us all of us try to be a little more serious in spreading the Gospel of Christ, in the spirit of Francis of Assisi. May we pray that God will help us open our mouths to share more about Jesus (this might be hard) and be better examples of his love.)

What Happens When We Pray?

By Kathy Wilcox

Whether verbally, in meditation, or in song, prayer is communication with God. What we “expect” when we pray says a lot about our relationship with God. Most of us only turn to God when we want something. But God does not care - no matter why we pray He listens, and responds: we receive grace.

I heard a story that explains how God works, much better than I can. I am not sure if the story is true or is a parable but it tells about a family whose youngest child became ill with an incurable disease. He was the baby - the favorite of the parents, the older siblings who had moved out of the house, and even the grandparents. When the diagnosis was pronounced, the whole family went into a panic. They argued and they pointed fingers at each other in blame. They did not get along before the child became ill, now a war raged as they directed their anger about the illness at each other.

Doctors were consulted, second opinions were listened to, and finally after all the medical options were considered, tried and failed, the parents called the parish priest. Since the child was near death, the whole family arrived for the prayer service. When the priest completed the anointing and prayers, he stood to leave and the father said, “Wait, Father, isn’t there anything else we can do? He’s dying!”

The priest looked around the room, sensing the tension in the room, and observing the angry looks between family members. “We can pray a rosary together,” he said. “All of us.”

So because they loved the child, they all stayed and prayed the rosary together. Then the priest went further. “If you really love this child, you will come together as a family every week in this room and pray a rosary for this child.” He could see the look of shock in the faces of all those assembled, but because they all loved the child, they agreed.

Every Sunday evening the family came together. The parents led the prayer, and at first the others arrived silently and then hurried back out the door as soon as the rosary ended. Then after a few weeks, the mother offered coffee and pie that she had ready to anyone who would like some.

Before long the evening prayer was extending into a family evening of conversation and laughter. As the weeks went on, the child was slowing getting better, and so were family relations. The Sunday evening prayers were continued. After many weeks and months the child totally recovered and the family was reunited. God not only healed the child, he healed the family.

What happens when we pray? Our prayers reach God who sends his Holy Spirit, who brings the power of His love and His grace. Grace heals our bodies, but love heals our hearts and souls. Does prayer

change things? Yes, but the most important thing prayer does -- is it changes our hearts.

All Aboard

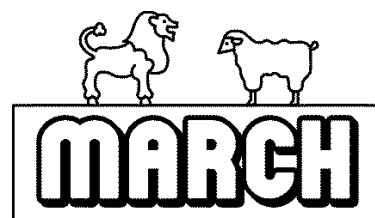
By Lynn McIntire

New York harbor. Near midnight on clear calm summer evening with a bright shining full moon. The Queen Mary ship was preparing to depart on an ocean voyage.

People were rushing up and down the ship’s gangplanks, kissing, hugging and waving goodbye to their dear ones, while on deck the band was playing Auld Lang Syne.

Suddenly, the night air was filled with a deep, deafening, long woooo from the belly of the ship indicating cast-off was near. The ship’s engines geared up, and soon the well-lighted beautiful ship slowly slipped away from the dock and headed out into the dark, open waters of the night.

On our own life’s voyage, when difficulties arise and we head out into dark, open waters, then courage, perseverance and asking Jesus to pilot the ship is comforting and uplifting. Remember your guardian angel is always with you (as is Jesus). And by inviting the Blessed Virgin Mary on board, your ship will have a full retinue to assure passage to harbor safety.



Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace Church

2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM

First Wednesday of the month

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 Soder

T. A. Walkiewicz

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.

“Be prepared at all times for the gifts of God, and be ready always for new ones. For God is a thousand times more ready to give than we are to receive.”

-Meister Eckhart

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 6:30 PM

Rick Kenawell (814) 375-0328

DuBois, PA

River of Life PG

2nd & 4th Monday evenings

7:00PM

St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA

Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104

† Thursday:

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30 PM

5031 W. Ridge Rd..

S.S.J. Living Center

Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM

West Lake Rd. & Powell Ave.

Jack Heintzel 838-1325

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church

2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM

Pat Montefiori 823-3968

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd.

John Griebel 7:00 PM

825-3588

† 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

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,

Shinglehouse, PA 10 AM – 12 Noon

Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for

Location 7:30 PM

T.A. Walkiewicz 833-9717

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)

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00 PM

Religious Education Center

Emporium, PA



Milestones and Lessons

By Agnes D. Helsley

Can you believe after 59 years of marriage I still need to review relationship tactics! Being the headstrong, difficult person I am, I needed a review for correcting relationship issues. The D. James Kennedy Ministry must have been peeking at my journal! They listed some good tips in their February daily devotional. Perfect timing for our March wedding anniversary. I am sure most of our highly intelligent readers are already aware of these tips, but still, be humble and join with those of us who need to be reminded most importantly: "a soft answer turns away wrath." No ground is gained when marital partners become partners in combat!

Listening actively, not cutting your partner off at the pass, but re-phrasing what was said (or what you think was said). This is just being committed to the Golden Rule of kindness.

We would like to be heard and have an opportunity to discuss issues calmly. Being open to sharing possible suggestions without critical comments is only fair. It is said that "criticism freezes the brain and destroys our ability to be creative." Maybe not so much freezes but sets on fire! Anger sets in too often when we are critical of one another. Successful people weigh pros and cons of potential solutions and try to reach a mutual agreement. It takes time -- and no fair sulking or pouting. Seriously listening -- being interested in exchanging viewpoints peaceably does wonders for our blood pressure.

To maintain a successful marriage, commit to not ever considering ending it. Work to make it successful. Vital to that is a great spiritual life. Pray together, pray

alone, pray, pray. Communicate with your spouse -- that gets harder as hearing loss sets in! "But you said . . ." "Take time to be sure you know you are on the same page."

Take time to show affection. Hugs, kind words and a daily "I love you" say we are still in love with our partner. We all have a stake in good marriages. Our society today is truly in trouble because of lack of commitment, selfishness, and wanting our own way. Marriage is hardly ever 50/50. Sometimes it is giving 100% and no immediate return. It is willing to be a servant.

Lastly, that extremely wise author "Anonymous" tells us "every person should have a special cemetery lot in which to bury the faults of friends and loved ones!" A marriage license is not a license to hunt for faults—it should be a license to hunt for good, to affirm that good, and be each other's greatest fan!

Prayer of St. Thomas Acquinas

Come, Holy Spirit, divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, truly divine and truly human, living and reigning with you and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

All Glory to Jesus

Actor Kevin Bacon recounted when his six-year-old son saw *Footloose* for the first time: He said, "Hey, Dad, you know that thing in the movie where you swing from the rafters of that building? That's really cool, how did you do that?"

I said, "Well, I didn't do that part ... it was a stunt man."

What's a stunt man? he asked.

"That's someone who dresses like me and does things I can't do."

"Oh," he replied and walked out of the room looking a little confused.

A little later he said, "Hey, Dad, you know that thing in the movie where you spin around on the gym bar and land on your feet? How did not do that?"

I said, "Well, I didn't do that. It was a gymnastics double."

"What's a gymnastics double?" he asked.

"That's a guy who dresses in my clothes and does things I can't do."

There was silence from my son, then he asked in a concerned voice, "Dad, what *did* you do?"

"I got all the glory," I sheepishly replied.

That's the grace of God in our lives. Jesus took our sin upon himself and did what we couldn't do. We stand forgiven and bask sheepishly triumphant in Jesus' glory.

Joel Sarrault

The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel

By Fr. Gerald Orbanek

(Ed. note: last month I printed an old Ann Landers column. This month it's an old Fr. Orbanek column from the *Lake Shore Visitor* newspaper of November 1990. I don't know why I keep these columns so long, but God knows. Hope you enjoy this one. If you are an old Catholic you might remember the LSV. Fr. Orbanek's column always was a question and answer format. At the time, he was chairman of the Department of Theology at Gannon University in Erie.)

Q: I am reading a novel in which mention is made several times of the "10 lost tribes of Israel." I am under the impression that there were 12 tribes. Is this "10 lost tribes" legendary or does it have some basis in fact?

A: It is a fact; there are 10 "lost tribes" of Israel.

Originally there were 12 tribes, each taking its name from one of Jacob's sons. (Some lists omit his son, Levi, because the Levites were given no territory but rather acted as priests interspersed among the other tribes. When that is the case, the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, substitute for Levi and Joseph.) But through much of the Old Testament period only two tribes remained. Thus, we speak of the "10 lost tribes of Israel."

This is what happened: King Solomon, who ruled Israel from c. 962 to 922 B.C. is not-

ed for his glory and for his wisdom. In spite of his wisdom he managed to alienate the loyalty of the 10 northern tribes. (There is good reason to speculate that the loyalty of these tribes to the Davidic monarchy had never been perfect anyway.) Solomon did this by excessive taxation and a conscription of forced labor which he needed to build his massive public works program.

When he died in 922 B.C. his son and successor refused to alter his father's policies and these northern 10 tribes seceded from the Jerusalem monarchy and established their own independent nation with rival temple, priesthood, religious calendar, etc. (You can read about this in 1 Kings 12).

This northern, schismatic kingdom would last only 200 years. In 722 B.C. Assyria, the dominant power in the ancient Near East for roughly 200 years, utterly destroyed this kingdom. Many historians of the biblical period characterize ancient Assyria as expansionistic, militaristic and genocidal.

As part of its genocidal policies the Assyrians would often deport and resettle their conquered peoples. This is what they did to those who survived the massive destruction of the north. (The account of this is found in 2 Kings 17.) Thus, the survivors of the northern kingdom lost their tribal identity by forced assimilation with other ethnic groups. These, then, are the 10 lost tribes of Israel.

Although their history is somewhat different, the origin of the Samaritans was also at

this time. Some of the ancestry of the Samaritans was probably from the 10 northern tribes. After 722 B.C. only the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin remained. What you are reading is no mere legend.

Note:

- Here is some related Bible history: Abraham's son was Isaac. Isaac's son was Jacob. Jacob's name was changed by God to Israel, which became the name of the nation. Jacob had 12 sons, in this order: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, were adopted by Jacob and became names of tribes.

- Jesus is often called the "Lion of Judah" as a reference to his lineage and power. The Tribe of Judah is often symbolized by the lion.

- Abraham left his home in Ur of the Chaldees (near the Persian Gulf) in obedience to God's command. His nephew Lot went with him. They traveled far to the northwest through Babylonia toward what is now Turkey. They settled for a time in the land of Aram (now called Syria). Thus Abraham sometimes referred to himself as a "wandering Aramean." After Abraham's father-in-law died, he and his contingent packed up and moved on southward to the land of Canaan, where they settled near the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. This became the "Promised Land" for the Israelite people.

Prayer Brunch

March 12, 2016

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

Enjoy: Fellowship • Brunch • Praise and Worship • Talk • Prayer for personal needs.

Time: 9:30 AM to Noon **Brunch fee:** \$8.50; must accompany reservation.

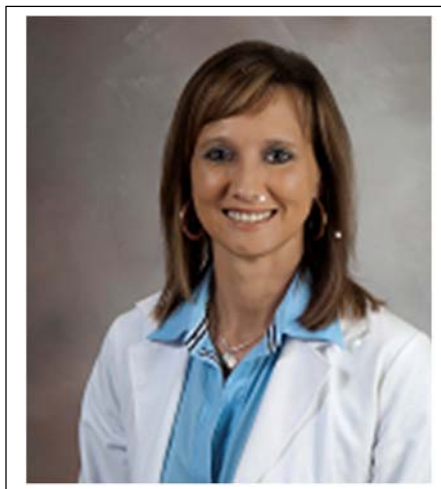
Sponsored by Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

MARCH SPEAKER: Dr. Jacqueline (Jaci) Phillips-Sabol

On March 12th, Dr. Phillips-Sabol will be speaking to us on the topic "More Than Chocolate." She is a board-certified neuropsychologist who is trained to diagnose brain disorders. She was director of neuropsychology at Baylor Scott and White in Temple, TX, where she was also an Assistant Professor of Neurology. Jaci also served as director of the Neuropsychology and Neurocognition Disorders Center at the University of Texas. During her time in Texas she continued to lead music in several Catholic churches, as well as remaining active in parish life

Music has been an integral part of Jaci's spiritual life since childhood. She recalls singing in tongues as a child. Music ministry in one form or another has been a recurring theme throughout her adult life. During the 1980s she was baptized in the Holy Spirit while attending a Life in the Spirit Seminar in Cleveland. She began to grow in use of the nine charismatic gifts as part of a deepening spiritual life. She has since been heavily involved in pro-life and deliverance ministries. She returned to Erie and became the music director for the newly-formed Bread of Life Community; she retained that position for many years.

Jaci currently lives in Erie and leads the Padre Pio prayer group. She is affiliated with St. Joseph/BOL Church.



Prayer Brunch Registration **Saturday, March 12, 2016**

\$8.50 _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone No. _____

Deadline: Friday, March 11. To register, call 814-833-9717

Bring your check, payable to "Word of Life Center," to:

Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514

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The office is generally open on
Wednesday and Thursday afternoons;
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

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