



# Reflections

Volume XXXI  
Issue No. 3

Word Of Life  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

March 2017

## HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE? By Amy Mosbacher

### **“I won a million dollars!”**

Wouldn't you be excited if that happened to you? You'd want everyone to know. Now, what if you knew that without diminishing any of your own winnings, you could share that money with everyone around you? That every single person you let know about it could also have their own million dollars, thus helping them out of whatever straits they were in?

We can do this, and the “money” translates as the riches of Jesus' love for us. We have received His love free of charge, and God asks us to give it to everyone we know. That's the essence of evangelization. But so many of us say “I'm not called to be an evangelizer,” or “Evangelizing is way out of my comfort zone.” I think we make telling others about Jesus harder than it needs to be, because we think evangelizing needs to be done from street corners. Or somehow conveying deep mysteries of the faith. I say we should leave the mysteries for the classroom, and focus on those who are already interested in Jesus and asking to know more about Him. Initially, what's going to draw people in is

showing kindness to them. It will be something like this: did we smile to them, or say hello as they passed, or listen if they needed to talk, or give them food if they were hungry? It could be any one of the works of mercy. It's what builds relationships. Then they will eventually ask us why we act this way and do these things, even when it's hard and there's nothing in it for us? After that the door is opened and we can tell them: Jesus helps me. Who is this Jesus? We respond, He means everything to me, and here's why. We don't say, here's why *you* should believe in Him, but here's why *I* believe in Him, and that belief guides my actions. Maybe they'll be curious. We've just planted a seed.

Quite often we don't need to go to homeless shelters or soup kitchens to perform those works of mercy. Maybe our own family and friends surround us with plentiful opportunities to be kind. Sometimes the concern is with our family or neighbors -- those with whom it's hardest to see eye-to-eye and it's difficult to be kind to them. In those circumstances, even if we're not verbally preaching Jesus, we're showing His love by being kind.

If an opportunity arises then we can introduce them to the Jesus who gives us strength, but we can't impose our views on them. When St. Andrew introduced his brother Peter to Jesus, he didn't drag him forcefully to meet Him. He simply “brought him to Jesus” (John 1:40-42). If our relatives don't see the need for Jesus (even though we greatly desire it), all we can do is pray and remember that Jesus wants it even more than we do.

**?** So the question then, is do we love our family/neighbors enough to want what's best for them? What's best will always be Jesus. So is our love big enough to risk being laughed at, ridiculed, or put down because people don't understand our actions, because Jesus means that much to us?

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# FASTING: GOD'S SECRET WEAPON

by Kathy Wilcox

Lent is here; will I take the easy choice and give up candy to appease my conscious? Or will I finally attempt and accomplish real fasting? My past failures prompted researching modern and biblical fasting. A quick Google search provides a list of forty Bible verses on fasting, both in the old and new testament; solid biblical proof.

To really learn the lost art of fasting and enjoy its fruit, I must listen to Jesus. He assumes his followers will fast, and even promises it will happen. He doesn't say "if," but "when you fast." And he doesn't say his followers might fast, but "they will". "And Jesus said to them, *"Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."* (Matthew 9: 15-16).

How many of us practice this self-restraint? I can only speak for myself, since the topic rarely emerges in casual conversation, even among Christians.

Why fast? Scripture teaches that serious spiritual warfare using the power combination of prayer and fasting destroys strongholds. These can include imbedded bad habits, chronic sins and lazy spiritual habits, and even Satanic influences in my life or in others. Fasting can also bring God's power into our

ministry and outreach to others. Fasting creates a void eager for filling with the Holy Spirit by wedding our prayers to the Holy Spirit, who then makes huge power plays!

Can I do this? I need to stop thinking about it and just put down the fork. However, those who regularly practice this spiritual tool recommend starting slowly by skipping a meal, either every day or even a few days a week. A successful beginning helps individuals build up to an all-day or three-day fast.

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*"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward."*

*Matthew 6:16*

Our Lady of Medjugorje suggests fasting by eating only bread and water two days a week -- Wednesdays and Fridays. Consider and address your personal health issues before attempting this discipline. Water and juice provide critical hydration for prolonged periods of fasting. Some choose to fast from watching television or giving up the internet. This is a good alternative for those who have health problems that would not

allow fasting.

Planning promotes victory over hunger and habit by filling mealtime with other activities. Pacing around thinking about food, or using distractions such as a favorite TV show, wastes valuable effort. I also cannot focus on losing weight as a benefit. This is going to be difficult but the goal is spiritual only! I also must avoid calling attention to my actions. Matthew 6:16 reminds us, *"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward."*

The key to successful fasting is to remember that *prayer must be combined with fasting* for God's power to ignite. I can pray in tongues, pray the rosary, pray novenas, pray scripture, and walk and pray. Just fast and pray.

As I begin this challenge, I trust Our Lord to provide the strength, and fulfill the promises! Will you join me? I am expecting miracles!



# CRUCIFYING THE HUMAN CONSCIENCE by Hans-Ruedi Weber

The day was Friday ... but quite unlike any other day. It was a day when men went very grievously astray ... so far astray they involved themselves in the utmost iniquity. Though they were people of religion and the most careful of men to follow the right ... their Roman overlords, too, were masters of law and order.

On that day the Jewish people conspired together to require from the Romans the crucifixion of Christ, so that they might destroy His message. The message of Christ was to have people be governed by their conscience in all they did and thought. When they resolved to crucify Him, *it was a decision to crucify the human conscience and try to extinguish its light*. On that day men willed to bury their conscience and that decision constitutes the supreme tragedy of humanity.

That day's deeds are a revelation of all that drives men into sin. No evil has ever happened which

does not originate in this will of men to slay their conscience and strive to extinguish its light ... while they take their guidance from elsewhere. There is no evil afflicting humanity which does not derive from this encapturing desire to ignore the dictates of conscience.

The events of that day do not simply belong to the annals of the early centuries. They are offences renewed daily in the lives of individuals. People, to the end of time, will be contemporaries of that memorable day.

Nothing else has changed the human heart so deeply as this deed on a hill. Nothing else has made people feel so strongly that we are being pursued by a love that will never give up and never let go until we bow our knees at last.

*From "On a Friday Noon" - Meditations Under the Cross.  
Submitted by Lynn McIntire*

## ***Victory in the Spiritual Garden*** written by Stacy Mal

You might have heard Stacy Malesiewski (writing as Stacy Mal) speak at a Word of Life Center event in the past few years. She is Vice President of Gray Matter Media in Greensburg, PA. She has now published a book on Amazon that is an expansion of the women's retreat she gave here in Erie in June 2016. Maybe some of the people who were at the retreat might want a refresher. Or perhaps you wanted to attend but were unable to do so.

Here is your chance to "catch up" with Stacy's thoughts and teachings in a DIY at-home retreat called *Victory in the Spiritual Garden*. She calls this a journey inward, into your own heart, where you will encounter the very heart of God. Stacy compares the spiritual journey to heaven as a journey through a mystical garden. She takes you through various levels of spirituality in short, succinct chapters. It is for those who want to dig deep, and who are open to further conversion.

The paperback version is at link: <http://a.co/7Md2Ag9>, and the ebook is at <http://a.co/6z9uJdP>. For more information visit [www.StacyMal.com](http://www.StacyMal.com) or [www.HolyLove.org](http://www.HolyLove.org).

## **Asking for your help**

The editor of this newsletter is asking all readers to strongly consider contributing articles. I believe that there are people reading this publication who have writing ability and could provide articles that would edify those who subscribe. I'm not asking you to submit every month, but as often as you can. Please pray about this, and let me know what you might be able to do. Thank you.

*Jack Heintzel, Editor*

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**HEALING MASS**

Our Lady of Peace Church  
2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. 7:30 PM  
First Wednesday of the month

**CONTEMPORARY MASS**

Every Sunday 11:00 AM  
St. Joseph Church /  
Bread of Life Community  
Children's Liturgy of the Word

**PERPETUAL ADORATION**

Bread of Life Chapel  
St. Joseph Community Center

**CHAPLET OF MERCY**

Every day 3:00 PM  
Bread of Life Chapel

**ST. JOSEPH NOVENA**

Every Wednesday 7:00 PM  
St. Joseph Church /  
Bread of Life Community

**NO MEMORIALS**

The bread you do not use is the bread of the poor. The shoes you do not wear are the shoes of one who is barefoot. The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor. The acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices you commit.

*St. Basil the Great*

**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 (814) 838-1325

† **TUESDAY:**

**Son of God Prayer Group**

Holy Rosary Church  
2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM  
Pat Montefiori (814) 823-3968

**Chosen Prayer Group**

St. Theresa Church,  
Shinglehouse, PA 10 AM – 12 Noon  
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519

† **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 (814) 836-4165

**St. Boniface PG**

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00 PM  
John Griebel (814) 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

**St. Andrew Chapel**

**(formerly Leopold Center group)**

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary  
1116 West 7th St.  
3:15 pm (after Mass)  
Mary Lou Peterson (814) 866-5678

**River of Life PG**

2nd & 4th Monday evenings  
7:00PM  
St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4  
Meadville, PA  
Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104

† **WEDNESDAY:**

**St. Mark's Prayer Group**

St. Mark Church 7:00 PM  
Religious Education Center  
Emporium, PA

† **FRIDAY:**

**Light of the World Community**

In Home Prayer Meeting  
Call for location 7:00 PM  
T.A. Walkiewicz (814) 833-9717



For information on  
National Catholic  
Charismatic Renewal visit:  
<http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/>

## REFLECTIONS ON MARCH

By Agnes D. Helsley

March is a bittersweet month. My husband Ed and I will celebrate 60 years of marriage on March 2. Neither of us thought we would even live this long but here we are thanking God for being the third member of the three-fold cord that cannot be broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12 tells of that cord which we, among many, consider to be a husband and wife, united in their trust in Almighty God. A marriage that lasts must rest on the firm foundation of solid, unshifting ground. Romantic love is the stuff written about but it is surely not strong enough to base a lifetime on. Our emotions are too fickle to

withstand the storms of life. Faith in the eternal Godhead is required to endure. John Ortberg has penned a truth worth remembering: "God isn't at work producing the circumstances I want. God is at work in bad circumstances to produce the ME He wants."

Marriage has plenty of opportunities to chisel, shape and sandpaper rough surfaces to produce that mirrored surface to reflect His glory in His people. Our first grandchild was born on our anniversary and he turns 34 this year. We celebrate Philip. Our daughter-in-law (the mother of Jack, our special needs grandchild) died in

2014 one day after our anniversary. We miss her greatly. While we mourn her loss in our family we know we will see her again!

March brings Spring and new life, and we look forward to the preparations for Easter, the greatest of our holidays. We have an excellent admonition in Proverbs 3:3: "*Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*"

We remember, we celebrate,  
we believe.

*Happy Spring!!*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Teens and Older—Men and Women

#### Prayer Brunch

**Saturday, March 11, 2017**

9:30 AM — 12:00 PM

St. Joseph's Bread of Life

147 West 24th St. Erie PA

**Cost \$8.50 per person**

Reservations are required by March 6, 2017

#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL:

Word of Life Center — (814) 824-1286

T.A. Walkiewicz — (814) 833-9717

### GOD LOVES YOU TOO MUCH TO LEAVE YOU WHERE YOU ARE

#### Speakers: John & Judy Skuce

John and Judy live in Harborcreek and attend our Lady of Mercy Church. They have been married for 56 years, have four children, ten grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

They made Cursillo, are involved with marriage encounter, and made a Life in The Spirit Seminar. Their current challenge is living with Alzheimer's

**John and Judy will be sharing their personal testimony of their spiritual journey.**

#### Registration: Prayer Brunch - Saturday, March 11, 2017

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Monday, March 6, 2017

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to:

Word of Life Center  
**\$8.50 per person**

Mail to:

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

## A LESSON FROM THE GEESE *by Jack Heintzel*

*"... for the sake of His body..... I have become its servant ..."*

*Col. 1:24-25*

I remember, many years ago, reading a newsletter called *Stewardship* from Parish Publishing. An article in the publication was encouraging a spirit of true giving---giving of *ourselves* for the Church. As I read the article I was thinking of the Charismatic Renewal in our Diocese. And what I read at that time is still true now. I think that we who are involved with the Word of Life Center can still feel the shortage of "servants" to do what God is calling us to do. We still need people who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit, but who are not fully contributing their time and gifts. We particularly need younger people to come forth and take responsibility, learning from those who have been leaders for a while. If this does not happen, the Renewal cannot prosper in the future.

The newsletter article offers a lesson from the geese we see flying south for the winter. Scientists have drawn some conclusions from observing why the geese fly in a V formation. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock flies more efficiently; their flying range is 71% greater than if each bird flew on its own. Similarly, consider Christians who share a common goal and direction. They can also get where they want to go more quickly and more easily because they are traveling on the thrust and uplift of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the

drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation. Then he has the advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed in the way we want to go. When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies in the point position. It pays to take turns doing hard jobs---with people or with geese flying south.

Another interesting point is this: the geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. With the author we can ask ourselves, "What do we say when we honk from behind?" Or do we honk at all? Finally, when a goose gets sick or wounded by gunshot and falls out, he gets help. Two geese immediately fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is able to fly again. Then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their original group. We in the Renewal also need to be concerned with our brothers and sisters who need help and support.

Those in current leadership *do* need help and support. Please pray about what you can do. Keep in mind the encouragement of St. Paul to Timothy (2 Tim. 1:6) to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you by the laying of hands. Ask God what His will is for you in serving Him; He will reveal it to you. There is a place for you in the Renewal. And as you fly in formation with others, you will feel their encouragement,

their uplift, helping you serve God better.



A week before Easter a first-grade class was shown a picture of the empty tomb with the stone rolled back, and the teacher asked "What does Jesus' resurrection mean?" One young student quickly raised both hands and shouted out "it means Jesus is on the loose!"

The boy was right. Jesus is unbound, released, and set free from the tomb of sin and death. He can show up anywhere, anytime, to anyone, just as He did to those first disciples at Easter. We also should find Jesus in the activities of each day, through His Spirit revealed in every breath and heartbeat. And that should fill us with the promise of hope that sickness and death do not have the final word.

## WHO CREATED EVIL?

Did God create evil? The university professor challenged his students with this question: "Did God create everything that exists?" A student bravely replied, "Yes, he did." "God created everything?" the professor asked. Yes, sir," the student replied. The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil. Since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are, then God is evil."

The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth. Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question, professor?" "Of course," replied the professor. The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?" The professor replied "Of course it exists. Have you ever been cold?" The students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact, sir, cold does not exist.

According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody, every object, is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy and heat is what makes a body, or matter, have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat.

The student continued. "Professor, does darkness exist?" The professor responded, "Of course it does." The student replied, "Once again you are wrong, sir. Darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light, we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure

the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?" Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course, as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. *Evil is simply the absence of God.* It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or darkness that comes when there is no light." The professor sat down. The young man's name --- *Albert Einstein.*

### *Through the Seasons with Jesus and Mary* written by : Amy Mosbacher

Starting with Advent and traveling through the liturgical year, this book can help you experience the excitement, and the ordinariness, of the events which shaped Christianity and the world. Amy shares how even the smallest events can be infused with the Holy Spirit. *Through the Seasons* can help all of us to surrender to the transforming fire of God's love. I have been touched by reading this book, and I suggest you try it to see how you might better experience God's love and find your place in the ultimate love story. If you have enjoyed Amy's monthly articles in this publication, you will enjoy this book.

The price of a single copy is \$13.95 (paperback). To purchase a copy, contact Amy by phone at 814-724-6104 or by email at [amy.mosbacher@catholic-meadville.org](mailto:amy.mosbacher@catholic-meadville.org) for any readers who are in charge of buying in bulk for their organizations, Amy can offer it at reduced prices: \$5.50 each for 500 copies, \$3.90 for 1,000 copies, and \$2.85 for 2,000 copies. The books could be given as gifts or used as handouts. If anyone is interested, you can contact Amy for more information.

**Individual copies can be purchased online from Amazon or Barnes and Noble.**



## DIOCESE OF ERIE

### WORD OF LIFE

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## March 2017

*The Lord opened the  
'understanding of my  
unbelieving heart, so that I  
should recall my sins.*

*Saint Patrick*

Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Romeo-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland, along with saints Brigit of Kildare and Columba.



### Reflections is published monthly by:

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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.

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