



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

May 2015

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

Pentecost power

By Kathy Wilcox

We all now know the story of Jesus. But, if we were there and living it all for the first time, could we have easily accepted the things that happened? The original Apostles knew Jesus personally, witnessed his death on Good Friday, and then saw Him alive again in His glorified body on Easter morning. Shock and awe? They had to be stunned, and then finally believed their eyes and ears as he appeared and spoke to them. He then spent another forty days repeating and reinforcing His teachings, but He did not send them out to evangelize and teach. In fact, He commanded them in Acts 1: 4-5 that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but should **wait** for the promise of the Father, "which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:9 goes on to say "After He said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight." So shock again!! After all they were through, Jesus left them again! So what did the apostles do? They went into hiding. They waited and waited because they really did

not know what else to do. The Ascension was not the end of Jesus, but led to the birthday of His church.

Then it happened. The Holy Spirit came with fire power, and the apostles burst out of the upper room speaking in tongues, proclaiming the gospel, healing and prophesying! Peter led the crowds to repent and to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. He promised that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. They took the gospel message to heart. About 3,000 people were baptized and added to the fledgling Christian church on that Day of Pentecost.

The power of the Holy Spirit is for all who believe in Christ. We in the Charismatic Renewal have asked for and opened our hearts to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The question is: are WE using the gifts?

I was blessed to visit the funeral home for a friend who passed away on Holy Thursday. This gentleman was 90 years old, and for most of his adult life, was not shy about witnessing for the Lord. His Bible was worn and tattered from use, and he spent every day in prayer for those who still

did not know Jesus. Milton was not Catholic, but I have no doubt that he loved Jesus and was filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As I paid my respects I overheard others coming in and greeting the family. "Milton led me to the Lord," I heard over and over. Milton was a modern day apostle.

I need to think about how I spend my time -- am I in hiding or out witnessing? I have no excuses; I have been blessed with the teachings of Christ. I know Him and have received Pentecost power: the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I pray that I will be able to follow my friend's example and courage, and hope that I can follow him to be with the Lord, where I know he is now.



May 24, 2015

Centering in

By Jack Heintzel

2015 events

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

- **Prayer Brunch** – Aug. 22nd at St. Joseph / BOL Community.
- **Day of Renewal** – Oct. 17th at St. Joseph / BOL Community.

Prayer and fasting

Target: Wednesdays

The Executive Committee continues to encourage 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. There are many needs to be met, and we need God's help to do so.

Prison ministry

- **SCI Cambridge Springs:**
Life in the Spirit Day (follow-up session) on May 23rd plus continuing bi-weekly prayer meetings.
- **SCI Albion:**
Life in the Spirit Days on May 2nd and Nov. 14th plus continuing bi-weekly prayer meetings.

We have teams leading Life in the Spirit Days and prayer meetings at the state prisons at Cambridge Springs (women) and Albion (men). Please intercede for these brothers and sisters that the power of the Spirit will continue to move through them. The teams are effectively meeting the needs of the inmates, and need your prayers.

May liturgical calendar

Thursday May 14th –

Ascension (or Sun. the 17th)

Sunday May 24th – **Pentecost**

Sunday May 31 – **Holy Trinity**

Financial support

We thank all of our supporters for your ongoing contributions. If you have made a monthly pledge commitment, please check to see if you are up-to-date on contributions. The money received is used to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The grace of Pentecost

From an address by Bishop Sam Jacobs to the Association of Diocesan Liaisons: some helps in bringing the grace of Pentecost into the heart of the Church.

1. Pray regularly for the spiritual renewal of the Church and your parish.
2. Believe that the grace of Pentecost is for the whole Church, and do not be discouraged.
3. Don't accept the false assumption that the Charismatic Renewal is just another spirituality, similar to Franciscan or Ignatian spirituality. Rather know for a fact that it is the spirituality of the Church just as it was the spirituality of Jesus. After His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit and acted in the power of that same Spirit. From Pentecost until now God calls His people likewise to be baptized in the Spirit and to exercise the gifts of the Spirit for the up building of the Body.

4. Be involved in your parish, but do not try to force anything on anyone.

5. Have a servant's heart. We must symbolically follow the example of Jesus who washed the feet of the disciples.

6. Act out of unconditional love. Genuine love draws people to seek and ask for that gift of love.

7. Be available and be bold in the exercise of the Charisms. In the words of St. Paul, "...stir into flame the gift of God bestowed when...hands were laid on you. The spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving and wise."

(2 Tim. 1:6-7)

8. Repent of any arrogance, pride, or self-righteousness that has hindered the spirit from working in you.

9. Forgive anyone who has hurt you.

10. Witness and evangelize regularly. Let your light shine in the darkness.

11. Be equipped with the facts; read, study, and be ready to share the truth of God's plan of salvation and sanctification.

12. Be open to what God wants you to do. But don't get ahead of God.

13. Understand that people may be living a fuller life in the Spirit without labeling it as Charismatic. The reality is more important than the label.

14. Be authentically Catholic in belief, in speech, and in action.

Excerpted from the Detroit Catholic Charismatic Renewal newsletter of March/April 2015.

Go to your room

By Amy Mosbacher

“Girls! Stop it! That’s it, go to your rooms. Now!” I clenched my hands in exasperation, considering their latest antics while trying to calm down. How many times I have bitten my tongue to keep from yelling at my children, I couldn’t tell you. It amazes me that someone I love so much manages to try my patience so often. Later as I prayed about that whole scenario and my reaction to it, I thought, Oh, the lessons God keeps throwing at me! What a wonderful lesson on his mercy! There are several prayers in which we plead with Christ, “Within your wounds, hide me.” This particular one is from the Anima Christi. I’ve always wondered about that strange request and exactly what it meant. I understand the next line, “Let me not be separate from you,” but why so close as to be within his wounds? Was it so that we might share uniquely in the suffering of Christ? That could be the explanation, but I wasn’t happy with that. A combination of dealing with my daughters and seeing the current actions of humanity have given me an explanation I like better.

The world today commits so many atrocities against our Lord. We are like children who’ve angered their Father. So when we’ve done something that cuts us off from God, the only thing left to do is to plead for his mercy. Oh, thank heaven, our God is a merciful God! He will hide us in the wounds of Christ, whom he loves, until his anger has passed. (Rather like being

sent to our room, isn’t it?) Yes, we will have to deal with the due justice of God as would any children who’ve earned discipline, but he will wait until his indignation has cooled.

During this Easter season, and celebrating the Feast of Divine Mercy, the sacrifice that Jesus made for us is especially vivid. Through participating in his sacrifice by means of the Mass we are healed. We can live a good life according to the gospel, and we’ll have still done only what God asks of us. Our fallen humanity remains. It’s only by the blood of Jesus and his plea for mercy that we are saved. Take up his plea and beg for God’s healing mercy to rain on the whole world!

O Jesus! Deep abyss of mercy! I beg of thee, in memory of thy wounds which penetrated to the very marrow of thy bones and to the depth of thy being, to draw me, a miserable sinner, overwhelmed by my offenses, away from sin, and to hide me from thy face justly irritated against me, hide me in thy wounds until thy anger and just indignation have passed away. Amen.

— Prayers of St. Bridget
of Sweden 88 89

**Mother's
Day**



**May 10,
2015**

Living with your family

When Anatole France was a boy, he read a book of the life of the saints and was impressed by the story of Simeon Stylites who showed his holiness by living on top of a pillar. Young Anatole decided to imitate the saint. With boyish ingenuity he made a pillar by putting a chair on the kitchen table. Then he began to sit. His mother, however, was not in sympathy with his method of obtaining sainthood. Before it was time for supper, she made him climb down from his perch and pull the chair after him. He said, “I perceive it is a very difficult thing to be a saint while living with your family.”

True indeed! It is never easy to be a Christian at home, but this is the acid test of our religion.

— Dudley Caverts in
Ours is the Faith

Impatience

A young woman’s car stalled at a stoplight. She tried to get it started, but nothing. The light turned green and there she sat, angry and embarrassed, holding up traffic. The car behind could have gone around, but instead the driver added to her anger by laying on the horn.

After another desperate attempt to get the car started, she got out and walked back to the honker. The man rolled down his window in surprise.

“Tell you what,” she said, “You go start my car, and I’ll sit back here and honk the horn for you.

—Leadership,
Fall 1995

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace

2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday May 6, 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

Msgr. John T. Carter

“ “ “
“ “ “

Pat Dimperio

“ “

Robert Roach

John Applegate

Grace Madonna

Robert Jones

Barbara Fedlak

Margaret McCroney

Helen Viola

Rosalind Vavreck

Requested by

Jack & Jean Heintzel, Theresa Ann Walkiewicz

Carol Mando, Rev. Sandra Kerner

Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil

T.A. Walkiewicz, Jack & Jean Heintzel

Ed & Agnes Helsley, Shelly Rudolph

Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil

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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.

**“God became human so that humans might
become divine.”**

St. Athanasius

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

May 3,10,17,24,31

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM

West 8th & Powell Ave.

Jack Heintzel 838-1325

May 3,10,17,24,31

† 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

May 4,11,18,25

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.

Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

At 3:00PM (before Mass)

May 4,11,18,25

(Except major holidays)

River of Life PG

2nd & 4th Monday evenings

7:00PM

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

Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104

May 11,25

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church

2701 East Ave. 7:00PM

Pat Montefiori 823-3968

May 5,12,19,26

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,

Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon

Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519

May 5,12,19,26

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM

Religious Education Center

Emporium, PA

May 6,13,20,27

† Thursday:

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30PM

5031 W. Ridge Rd.

S.S.J. Living Center

Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165

May 14

**St. Joseph Church Bread of Life
Prayer Meeting** 7:00PM

139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center

Regi Connelly (814) 866-0505

May 1,8,15,22,19

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM

John Griebel 825-3588

May 1,8,15,22,29

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for

Location

7:30PM

Bob Zimmer 868-5344

1,8,15,22,29z nm.

May Musings

By Agnes Helsley

Ah, the merry month of May. Jack turns 12 years old! Hard to believe, but true. Jack has many challenges – language problems coupled with Down Syndrome are quite common. Communication can be frustrating and lead to social problems. Jack is gaining ground, however -- thank God. His daddy has set up an electronic tablet through which Jack can communicate quickly. He loves all his “gadgets” and those of others such as Grandma’s I-Phone, on which a few birthday parties are recorded. It can be tiresome to listen as he plays and replays the events continually! Not tiresome to Jack, just to Grandma.

Recently Jack had my phone and I needed to redirect him. I heard him say a quiet goodbye into the phone. I thought he was just pretending to be speaking to someone. I looked at the phone and it was showing contact with Jack’s Uncle Charlie. I was puzzled. About a half hour later my phone rang. It was Uncle Charlie, who lives in Michigan. He was calling to speak to Jack. He told me Jack had phoned him while he was in a meeting. Jack’s first phone call! Jack loves Uncle Charlie. He plays ball with Jack, he plays the guitar – he is good-time Charlie. He was keeping his promise to call Jack back. I was amazed! Later that same day one of Jack’s caregivers told me, as she and Jack traveled over West 38th St., that Jack said “Gramma and Grampa house Saturday.” A very long sentence for Jack. I told her that Jack had been to our apartment on Saturday, and I

asked if they had passed by Parkside (where we live) at the time he uttered his sentence. She said “no,” they had not reached that point on 38th St. He was recalling his visit to us and the correct day. Again, amazement.

It reminded me of a quote from Chuck Swindoll which stresses how God imparts wisdom to us. My grandson with special needs receives from God wisdom just as we so-called average people do. Not as huge rocks come off a conveyor belt, or dispensed like a prescription across a counter. It comes from being faithful to small obscure tasks few people see. Jack’s little puzzle pieces are fitting together. Hurrah for Jack!

May is also a month to be more aware of our need to pray for our nation. The first Thursday of May is traditionally dedicated to intercession for our great nation. We are truly at a very dangerous crossroad for society. Remember the promise God makes to His faithful – “If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chron. 7:14)

Father, let your kingdom come; let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven



May 7, 2015

A life-filled prayer

A high school senior in Washington, D.C. offered this graduation prayer, which applies to people of all ages:

“Dear God, grant us one thing before we leave the sheltered *reassurance of our childhood*. Show us life. Not an empty, shallow world of shallow people and shallow dreams, but real life. For we have known the bliss of childhood as well as the passion of adolescence.

“We want to make the world a better place, but we don’t know how. We want to throw our arms around our brothers and our sisters, but our hands cannot reach. We want to break the cycle of violence and the bonds of injustice in our society, but we’re not strong.

“Smile on us when we drink from the waters of truth. When we are old, reassure us that our struggle helped make the world a kinder, gentler and more peaceful place. And please, God, don’t let us die without ever having lived.”

Authentic prayer

“Prayer is not just spending time with God. No, prayer is dynamic. Authentic prayer changes us – unmasks us – indicates where growth is needed. Authentic prayer never leads to complacency, but needles us – makes us uneasy at times. It leads us to true self-knowledge, to true humility.”

- St. Teresa of Avila

Praying in Jesus' Name

By Jack Heintzel

"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

John 14:14

The above scripture verse gives us something serious to think about. How many times have we prayed for something and finished with the phrase "in Jesus' name?" Was the prayer answered? Do we understand what we are saying? Do we understand the implications of this phrase? It was helpful for me to read an article by Sr. Ann Shields in a *Renewal Ministries Newsletter*. She states that many times in the past she tried to apply John 14:12-14 without really understanding what Jesus meant. She would say, "Jesus, in your name, do this." Or, "Jesus, in your name, make this happen." I have done the same in my intercessory prayers. But there is the danger that we can use this phrase without thinking, somewhat automatically, not realizing what we are saying. As Sr. Ann states, the name of Jesus may be just a formula we attach to the end of any prayer request we make. So what does it mean to pray "in the name of Jesus?"

Consider this: if you would ask someone for money in the name of the Pope, the donor would rightly expect that his money would be used to meet a request of the Pope. Sr. Ann uses another example: if you asked someone to sign a petition in the name of the Right to Life Movement, the person would expect his signature to support this movement. If it turned out that you were actually using the money or the signature for your own purposes, the donor

would be justifiably angry. In the same way, if we are praying in the name of Jesus, our requests should have some connection with Jesus Christ and His work. In other words, I had better have some reason to think that what I am asking for is something Jesus himself wants. When we pray "in the name of Jesus", we should be praying according to Jesus' heart and his intention. It should not simply be something that we want, but something we know Jesus wants.

Sr. Ann says that if we would examine the Holy Scriptures closely and study the customs of those times, we would discover something about the use of a person's name. The people in biblical times would use a person's name only when they were intimately connected with that person in some way, for example, if he or she was a relative or an intimate friend. They knew that person's heart and mind, and they knew the person's will. Similarly, when Jesus says, "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it," he is implying that we know his mind, will, and heart when we invoke his name. The privilege of invoking the name of Jesus is reserved for his disciples, those who know him and have committed their lives to him.

So we should ask ourselves how we can get to know Jesus in this intimate way. How can we know his mind, his will, his heart? We have to make our home in Christ, and let his Word make its home in us. Jesus says in John 15:7-8, "If you remain in me, and

my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." So let us keep on praying, realizing that the key to answered prayer is our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Up but not away

Many Christian denominations celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which refers to a post-resurrection event that took place



40 days after Easter. This year it occurs on May 14.

According to Luke, Jesus led his friends to a Jerusalem suburb

called Bethany. While on a small mountain, he blessed his friends and then rose into heaven while they watched.

The ascension was such a momentous occasion that after Jesus disappeared, his followers had a worship service at the spot. Then they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52, (NRSV)).

Because Christ had promised to be with his followers always (Matthew 28:20), from then on they knew he would be with them as Spirit. Jesus' body was up and away, but spiritually he was still - and always would be - their companion.

From Year of Unity 2015 Endeavor to lay down our lives for each other.

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friend” (Jn. 15:13). In this Year of Unity we are challenged anew to find ways to foster unity with our brothers and sisters. We often read John 15:13 with the idea of being willing to die for our friends, but in a more practical way we are being asked to ‘lay down our life’ for our friends. That may mean that we have to give up our visions of how things should be and our way of doing things. We do this for Jesus, for the higher calling to live for Jesus, not ourselves and our understandings. We must be constantly open to the Holy Spirit directing and teaching us. If we are willing to ‘lay down our life’ as we see it now and are open to listening to, responding to and cooperating with others, we can build unity between all groups and peoples with whom we work. We strive for this because in Romans we are told, “so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Rom. 12:5).

What does that look like for us? Here are some simple things you can do.

- Pray together – find ways and opportunities for community and group prayer with other

expressions of the
Renewal in your area.

- Be clear in your vision for a unified body of believers celebrating the commonality of all.
- Be open and vocal about the gift each group brings to the renewal of the Church.
- Commit to ongoing communication and cooperation with the different groups.

From document issued by National Leadership Groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal; distributed by National Service Committee

Mother John Marie

By Sister Philip, DLJC

It was in December of 1973 that I first met Dorothy Stewart, now Mother John Marie. My life was radically changed that evening. Mother’s warm, inviting smile and dancing blue eyes captivated me, as did her stories of all that the Lord was doing now, in our time. She was excited because she had seen with her own eyes the lame walk, the blind see, and the deaf hear.

Soon I was invited to attend a small prayer meeting with the community and I was prayed with to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. That Spring, we sang at the large

gathering in Oakland, CA where Kathryn Kuhlman was having a service. What a magnificent night that was. I saw for myself the lame walk, the deaf hear, and

experienced
praise that
was
electrifying.



Mother
never left a
leaf unturned.
She had
picked up the
banner of the

New Pentecost and preached it whenever she had the opportunity. Once when we were talking with some friends after Mass a woman came up to her saying, “You had better watch out for those ‘Charismatics.’ You know, they speak in tongues.” Without batting an eye she turned to her and said, “You had better apologize to the Third Person of the Holy Trinity! Don’t you know, He is the one who gives the gift of tongues.”

Mother’s first concern has always been to do the Lord’s will. We are here today because of her persistence and the favor of the Lord.

Ed. note: Mother John Marie founded the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in Texas. This is a Franciscan and Charismatic religious order of sisters.

Excerpted from Pentecost Today, Winter 2015.

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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
Writers: Liz Geary, Kathy Wilcox, Agnes Helsley, Amy Mosbacher
Typist: Carol Mando

Volume XXIX

Issue No. 5



be with you.
As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you."

John 20:21, NRSV

MAY 2015