



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

May 2016

The Value of Silence

By Kathy Wilcox

For those who are shy, speaking is hard. They prefer to quietly listen and stay under the radar in social situations. For others, it is hard to be silent. I am one of those who have a hard time restraining my tongue. It was so difficult for me when I was working in an office that I penned the letters on my hand *KKYMS* to remind myself “Kathy keep your mouth shut.”

As I continue my struggle with this character defect, what I am learning is that silence is more than just not speaking. Silence is an internal attitude and discipline as well. It forces me to listen to others, and not respond. I am learning that people often do not want or need advice; they just need someone with whom they can share their thoughts and feelings without judgment.

I must review carefully what I will say before I speak. The ability to voice my thoughts should never abuse this gift from God. For example, is what I plan to say gossip, an obscenity, prying into some-

one's personal life, or even just idle talk? These abuses of speech are not only unnecessary, but often sinful. James says it well, “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry... if anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. (James 1:19 & 26)”

Proverbs 17:28 provides food for thought before I speak as well, for even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.

It is also wise to surround myself with silence by turning off the noise that is always available. The TV, radio and even cell phones are distractions which prevent me from functioning as an individual; they even prevent me from accomplishing daily tasks and will interfere with my relationship to God.

I need silence when I enter into prayer, and I should not just utter words, but stop and listen for the Lord to speak to

me. I can learn how important it is to listen in silence for the voice of God by reading of Elijah's experience in I Kings 19:11-13. Elijah sought the Lord and went to the mountain top where a windstorm blasted around him, yet he did not hear God speak. Then an earthquake shook all around him, and finally a great fire erupted, and yet he did not hear God's voice. When the Lord came to speak with him, He spoke in a whisper.

When I am silent I can sort out my own thoughts. I should discipline myself to pray mentally, and praise God for all the good in my life and avoid negative thinking. The classical definition of prayer, after all, is “the lifting of the heart and the mind to God.” So God hears my thoughts and I am connecting with Him in a powerful way.

If I have not heard from God about something I am praying about, I pause and remind myself that when I am silent, then I will hear God speak.

Centering In

Important Dates

Please note these important dates during the next few months, and pray that God would bless them.

May 15th – Pentecost Sunday.
Praise Fest at St. Joseph/BOL Community Center (see page 3 for details).

June 4th – Life in the Spirit day at Albion men's prison.

June 11th – Women's Day of Recollection at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center (see pages 6 & 7 for details).

July 20th – Board Meeting at St. Mark Center at 1:30 PM

Prison Ministries: Funds Needed

The Board of Directors wants to remind everyone about our important prison ministries at Cambridge Springs and Albion. Funds are needed to purchase materials. The main item is the booklet given to inmates at Life in the Spirit days. We are running low on these materials. Please send your donations to the Center at the address on the back of the newsletter.

National Conference

Another reminder that the National Leaders' and Ministries Conference will be held on November 4-6, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. All are invited to attend. For more details, please visit www.nsc-chariscenter.org or call 800-338-2445.

Memorial Contributions

WOL memorial contribution packets are available free of charge at the Center for anyone who wants them. They are now being made available at various events, and also can be kept available at members' homes to use as needed. There are two parts: 1) a card to write in the person's name to be remembered, the name to be presented to, and the name requested by. The donation amount is then entered, and that amount can be sent to the Center. 2) The other card is sent by the donor to the person to whom it is being presented with information on the nature of the gift and who is presenting it. Envelopes are included. Call the Center if you want some. Memorials are published in Reflections every month on page 4. This is an ongoing opportunity to contribute to the work of spreading the Gospel through the Word of Life Center.

Computer Web Page

If you have a computer, you can check out our web page on the diocesan website by going to www.eriescd.org. In the left column look for Diocesan Offices and then double click. You will see about 40 offices or departments of the diocese, one of which is the Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center. Double click on that name to open our web page. The web page has recently been updated and will give you fresh information as to what is happening in the diocesan renewal, plus a link to the national renewal.

August Prayer Brunch

This is advance notice of the next prayer brunch to be held on August 27, 2016. The speaker will be Betty Ferguson, who will speak about forgiveness. It will be held at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center. More information will be forthcoming in the next few issues of this newsletter. Please mark your calendar for this event.

Pentecost Today

This is the major publication of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It is published by the National Service Committee, and is worth your subscription. It tells what is happening across the country in the renewal. Some features recently are these: 2016: a year of mission in mercy; renewing our zeal for souls; basic teaching of Life in the Spirit seminars; the national leaders' conference; message of Pope Francis on grace; reaching young adults; the essential baptism of the Holy Spirit; empowering young adults; being a missionary church; and Catholic ministries to the poor.

You can get information by calling (360) 730-1740. You can subscribe as an individual or in behalf of a prayer group. Our prayer group "chips in" for a subscription.



Final Perseverance

By Amy Mosbacher

In my last article I mentioned a discussion I had with a young man about predestination. He was convinced that once a person had accepted God and was a Christian then his salvation was assured regardless of how far he strayed in the future. To me that sounded like presumption, where the person thinks he can go ahead and sin, since he's counting on God's forgiveness. It's good to rely on God's mercy, but His mercy depends on our repentance as well.

I've since learned that the term for what the young man believes is "eternal security" and it represents a rather extreme Calvinist viewpoint. Yes, it does have to do with predestination, but Catholics and Calvinists have different definitions of predestination. I'll give a brief explanation of the two, but books have been written on the subject doing much better justice to the topic. I'm writing from a Catholic source taken from the Eternal Word Television Network Library.

The difference has to do with initial salvation and final salvation. The "eternal security" view holds that someone who has been called and believes in God is assured of salvation; if he were a Christian at any point in his life then that's enough. Catholics separate that salvation into initial and final. Initial salvation is when someone is first called to Christian life and believes in God, usually demonstrated by

baptism. But that doesn't mean that person will stay a Christian. Final salvation is what we pray for now; trusting God will help us stay faithful to Him until the end of our lives when we can join Him in heaven. As Catholics, we believe that just because we are called to the first, initial salvation, that doesn't necessarily imply we'll make it to the second, final salvation. We need to ask God to help us be faithful and keep away from evil all our lives so that we will persevere to the end. Our term for that grace is final perseverance, and it's a gift we should pray for often.

Sometimes all the definitions sound as though they should be left to theologians. Denominations start quibbling over words, and we in these denominations might sometimes forget charity. Our challenge is to not let definitions and denominational beliefs affect how we treat one another. Jesus prayed that we would all be one regardless of race or creed. We're all His children. I think that the unification of churches, being the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches and the various Protestant and other Christian denominations, will take an act of God, a great miracle. My hope is that such a miracle will cause the rest of the world to convert and come to believe that God exists. Until then, we need to hold fast to the Truth deposited in the Catholic Church and let it guide our daily actions. Loving everyone we meet, even if the person holds different beliefs from ours, is what Jesus

asks. We need to find the good in everyone and see how the Holy Spirit is at work in that person. In those challenging situations let us pray to respond in kindness and grace, and for the gift of final perseverance so we'll all see each other in heaven someday.

SPECIAL PENTECOST

GATHERING

May 15, 2016

2:00 – 5:00 PM

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting." (Acts 2:1-2)

All prayer groups, all believers, are invited to attend a "Pentecost Celebration of Jesus" at St. Joseph/BOL Community Center, 147 W. 24th Street, Erie, PA on Sunday, May 15th. If any questions, please call Patty Montefiori at 814-823-3968. INVITE! INVITE! INVITE! All are welcome. We are the Body of Christ. Don't miss out. God is calling us together to do a mighty work.

Fr. David Poulson, our Diocesan Liaison and Chair of the Board, will speak a few words.

Praise and worship will be led by Jaci Phillips-Sabol and Friends. Please come to this praise fest!

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

Bill Heintz
Don Beer
Lottie Bushick
Don Stayoch
Marge Ruden
Al & Helen Mikovich
Mary Ungerman

Requested by

Judi Janke
Judi Janke
Judi Janke
Ray & Mary Pilewski
Frank & Sara Snidarich
Cathy, Carolyn, Cindy, Allen, Corinne,
Colleen, & Tina
T.A. Walkiewicz

Contributions have been made for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**"I always begin my prayer in silence, for it is in the
silence of the heart that God speaks. God is the
friend of silence – we need to listen to God because it's
not what we say but what God says to us and through
us that matters.**

Bl. Teresa of Calcutta

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

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West Lake Rd. & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325

† 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)

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

River of Life PG

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

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

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

Chosen Prayer Group

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

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

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

† 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

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00 PM
John Griebel 825-3588

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30 PM
T.A. Walkiewicz 833-9717



Presidential Candidates: Religion and Worldview

By Jack Heintzel

The 2016 race for president of the United States is still in progress, so this article is relevant to all of us. I'm sure we all have opinions on the candidates. We don't run articles on political issues in this newsletter as a rule, but this seems to be a good exception. It has to do with the religion of the candidates, and how that might color their worldviews. The way they see the world affects all of us. The article I read was written by Tim Wildmon, president of American Family Association, as printed in *AFA Journal* in April 2016. AFA is a conservative Protestant organization. Their mission is to promote the Biblical ethic of decency and moral values in American society. If you are interested in more information, you can go online to *afajournal.org*. Here are some excerpts from Wildmon's article:

Now that we are in full blown campaign season, the candidates for president are being asked about their religion. All but Bernie Sanders claim to be a Christian of one stripe or another. By the time this column appears, some of the names below will have dropped out of the race.

Sanders is Jewish.

Hillary Clinton is a member of the United Methodist Church, probably the most diverse Christian denomination in the country in terms of its adherents. Politically, a Meth-

odist might just as likely be a liberal as a conservative.

Donald Trump is a member of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (Trump doesn't seem to know much about Christianity, having said he has never asked God for forgiveness.)

Jeb Bush grew up Episcopalian but converted to Catholicism.

Marco Rubio is Catholic but also attends an evangelical church.

Ben Carson is a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist church.

Ted Cruz is Southern Baptist.

John Kasich is Jeb Bush in reverse. He was Catholic but is now Episcopalian.

According to the Pew Research organization, 11 presidents have been Episcopalian, 8 have been Presbyterian, 4 have been Baptist, 4 Unitarian, and 3 Methodist.

Barack Obama attended a United Church of Christ congregation when he lived in Chicago.

Interestingly enough, there are more Catholics in America than any other Christian group, but we have had only one Catholic president, John F. Kennedy.

Religious faith is something to consider in a candidate because it affects one's worldview, which naturally has a great impact on political ideology.

We have never had an atheist elected president. I'm not sure when the American people will be ready for a candidate who says he or she does not believe in God at all.

Traditionally, Americans have appreciated presidents who acknowledged the God of Bible as the Supreme Being of the universe. One of the best examples of this was President Franklin D. Roosevelt leading the nation prayer over the radio on June 6, 1944 (D-Day). His prayer invoked Almighty God as pride of our nation. He humbly prayed for our troops this way: "They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard...the enemy is strong...we know that by Thy grace, by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph."

President Ronald Reagan once gave this prophetic word to his countrymen: "If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

While Americans understand that we elect a commander-in-chief, not a pastor-in-chief, still, I believe – at least I hope – most Americans still look for a presidential candidate who has a reverence for God, understanding that while he may be the most powerful man on Earth if elected, he is not God. Prov. 15:33 says this: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

I firmly believe God has blessed America in so many ways because we have acknowledged Him over our 240-year history. I know many are praying that our leaders begin to understand this again lest we become a nation gone under.

Registration: Women's Day of Recollection
June 11, 2016

\$20.00 _____

Deadline for registration is June 6, 2016

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone No. _____

Make checks payable to Word of Life Center, and send to:
Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514

St. Michael: A Story

Submitted by Lynn McIntire

Mom, I am writing this from my hospital bed in San Diego. Now don't get upset. I'm not seriously injured but just wanted to tell you what happened.

Remember when I was a boy you taught me to pray to St. Michael, and how you always prayed to him and asked him to watch over me and protect me? You even named me Michael because of your devotion to this powerful Archangel.

Well, we were on the battlefield in Korea and our commanding officer told us to get prepared because there was going to be a severe ground attack. Plowing through a heavy snow storm, I could barely see the other guys in my unit when suddenly walking beside me was a soldier whom I never saw before. Just looking at him made me feel more at ease. I said, Hi, my name is Michael. Cold out here, isn't it? What's your name?"

In a strong, firm voice he said "Michael." Strange, I thought. I was the only Michael in the whole unit when he said, "Going to be a tough battle tonight." I said, "Yeah," and then I started to say my St.

Michael prayer. I've prayed it every day since I learned it and right before I went into battle the day I was wounded. Just as suddenly as the snow started, it subsided briefly and in that instant I saw right before me, coming up a small hill, seven guerilla soldiers with rifles pointed right at me. I started to get up from my crouched position when the strong voice of Michael shouted "Down, boy." Just then a crack sounded and I felt a burning pierce my body, and just before I passed out Michael became as big as a giant.

Later, I woke to the voice of my commander, anxiously trying to question me: "Tell me, son, how did you ever do it?" I answered slowly, "What happened? Where am I? Where's Michael?" He replied, "Michael who? You know you're the only man in the entire unit named Michael." Then I explained about the giant of a man who walked beside me, and who pulled me down just as I heard the rifle shot that hit me.

"Now, son," my commander said quietly, "there was no one near you when we saw you get up to fire your rifle. But we could see the seven Commies

right in front of you, and by the time our first man could get to you, we found them---all seven---laid out...dead. What we can't figure out is---not even one shot was fired from your rifle." "Then what killed the seven," I questioned, stunned. "Son, he said, all seven were slain by a sword wound." Mom, I tell you, this is a true story.

Love, your son.

(This beautiful story of St. Michael the Archangel was told by a Marine from the hospital in San Diego, California. The truth of it was confirmed by the Catholic chaplain at the hospital.)

Worship

There are entire congregations who worship praise and praise worship but who have not yet learned to praise and worship God in Jesus Christ. The song, the dance, the banners have been accepted as worship instead of being seen as a means of expressing worship.

Judson Cornwall

Worship does not satisfy our hunger for God; it whets our appetite.

Eugene H. Peterson

VICTORY

*"For whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.
And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.*

(1 John 5:4)

WOMENS DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Sponsored by the Word of Life Center, Erie PA

SATURDAY JUNE 11TH 2016 8:30 AM TO 4:30PM

At the St. Joseph Community Center 147 W 24th St, Erie, PA 16502

CALL 824-1286 OR 833-9717 FOR RESERVATIONS

\$20/PERSON TEENS AND OLDER Some Scholarships available.

Please bring your own lunch. Drinks and snacks provided.

INCLUDES MASS, PRAYER, TALKS, MUSIC, SMALL GROUPS & MORE!



GOD IS CALLING YOU INTO THE DEEP

Come, discover a secret world inside your own heart, where God Himself has constructed a unique path to salvation. Journey through various levels, be renewed in grace, filled with the Holy Spirit, and transformed! Reflect on passages in Scripture, words from Doctors of the Church, lives of the Saints, and those of modern times.

ABOUT THE RETREAT DIRECTOR

Stacy Malesiewski is a Catholic wife, mother of 4, writer and speaker. She is Vice President of Gray Matter Media and Knight of Truth Media and very passionate about the New Evangelization. For info visit www.StacyMal.com

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The office is generally open on
Wednesday and 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.

Editor: Jack Heintzel
Writers: Kathy Wilcox, Agnes Helsley,
Amy Mosbacher

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