



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

July/August 2012

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

Walk, Pray and Remember

By Kathy Wilcox

The warm weather is a great time to get outdoors and go for a walk. Walking improves physical well-being. This summer, consider choosing meditation as your walking companion. Meditation will change your perspective and provide a focus for your walk. We Catholics can return to our roots and recite the rosary, which is a meditative prayer.

The rosary began as a teaching tool for people who could not read. It helps them memorize and understand the most important times in the life of Christ. Fr. William Saunders of EWTN explains that “The rosary assists us in growing, in uniting our life more closely to our Lord, and in imploring his graced assistance to live the faith.” As you walk, you can pray and remember the significant events of Christ’s life. It is easy to pace the prayers with each step.

Walk into Mary’s room as an angel informs her that she will be the mother of the Messiah. Follow Mary as she travels to a Judean town to visit her cousin Elizabeth, and then empathize with the pregnant Mary as she and Joseph journey over 90 miles from Nazareth into Bethlehem for the census. Search the

darkened town with them for a place in that crowded city to rest and for Mary to give birth. Then think about how they walked 6 miles from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, first to dedicate their child and then later, go 65 miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem when Jesus is twelve years old. The return trip was even longer as they had to turn back after one day of walking to go back and search for their child lost in the



city, finally locating him in the Temple with the elders. Jesus, Mary and Joseph walked everywhere they needed to go. Donkeys were used to carry supplies. They walked and they walked — everywhere!

You can follow Jesus into the desert as John the Baptist baptizes him in the Jordan River, and walk with the holy family to the wedding feast at Cana. Listen as Mary asks Jesus to help out her friends who have run out of wine. During the last meditation in this group you can visualize yourself joining the apostles as they walk into Jerusalem. Can you see Jesus ahead riding on a donkey as the people of the city throw palms in his path? Climb the stairs to the upper room and you will be there as they celebrate the Last Supper, the institution of the Eucharist.

Continue your walk behind Jesus along the Via Dolorosa, carrying the cross on which he will be crucified. That last climb to Calvary is an opportunity to observe the crowds and be a witness to the day that changed the world for those who believe. You can end your walk by meditating on the afterlife, focusing on the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

Walk, pray and remember Jesus. You will be blessed!

CENTERING IN

By Liz Geary

- **Prayer Brunch**

Our summer Prayer Brunch was held on June 30th. We were very blessed to have Stacy Malesiewski from St. Gregory's Parish in North East as the speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who volunteered to help with set-up and clean-up. Without you the brunches would not be possible. I would also like to thank all of those who were able to attend the brunch. I hope that you were blessed by the experience.

- **2012 Conference**

Please mark your calendars for our 22nd Annual Charismatic Conference which will be held October 12th and 13th, 2012, at St. Mark Catholic Center. Our theme is "Intercessory Prayer: Clothed with Power from on High." This year we will also be hosting a young adult track that will have a dedicated speaker in the auditorium for those ages 18-30. All others will be in the Chapel as usual. Please see the ad in this edition of *Reflections* for more information. Please plan to attend this uplifting conference and even bring a friend or two!

- **From Steubenville**

As I foreshadowed in the June edition of *Reflections*, I attended the Catholic Charismatic Conference at the Franciscan University of Steubenville June 8th -10th. I have brought back many ministry ideas, but the Lord has put it on my heart deeply to talk with all of you about this

particular aspect of our ministry with you first.

I have paraphrased much of this from a talk that Damian Stayne specifically gave to those in lay ministry for the Charismatic Renewal. He impressed upon us not to be ashamed or timid in asking for money to fund the Renewal, and here is why.

First of all, we in the Renewal cannot continue to run a post Vatican II ministry on pre-Vatican II donations. Lay ministry requires real dollars. We are a direct donation ministry, funded very little by the Diocese in which we operate. **All of you** are our primary funding source!

Secondly, you get the Renewal you pray for, but you also get the Renewal you PAY for. We are constantly and consistently saying that "God will provide," and He always does. But, I want this ministry to do more than survive. I want it to THRIVE and GROW, and I hope that you do too.

This talk from Damian spoke very deeply into my heart (quite in fact bringing tears to my eyes in the middle of a very serious talk) because in the month of May, the Word of Life Center fell drastically behind in our ability to pay our bills. If donations and gifts continue to be this low, it will only be a few short months before the Word of Life Center ceases to exist. This is a sad but true fact. The Center is only paying bare-bones bills and doing virtually nothing to grow because quite simply there is no money to do so. I do not believe that this is God's will, but it seems that our frail humanity might be getting in the way of God's good work.

There are many ministry works that we are involved in that need your support in order to continue.

I want to make sure at this point that I thank all of our faithful donors. Our ministry would not come close to meeting our bills without your faithful support every month. I pray every day that God blesses you for your generosity.

Damian reminded all of us in lay leadership that because the generous are generous, the poor are able to hear the good news. This specifically hit my heart as we have just finished ministering to those in the Cambridge Springs Women's Correctional Facility and the Albion Men's Correctional Facility. These types of ministries need your support in order to continue.

All this being said, I am respectfully and prayerfully asking all of you to pray about your donations to the Center. Damian directed all of us to ask that you do an examination of conscience regarding your donations. The Word of Life Center needs pledges that are monthly and planned in order to adequately make plans for the incoming finances. Certainly, we are not asking for anyone to give more than they are truly able, but please give cheerfully to the extent that you are able. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration to this request. I am blessed every day to be a part of this great ministry!

Please see the accompanying appeal form on page 3 and enclosed envelope to help you with your decision making process. May God Bless all of you!

Always have hope

Wilma Rudolph was a young girl who had a crippling physical problem. Naturally, she wanted to be normal, to be able to run and move around easily like other children. One day, when she was feeling rather low and discouraged, she asked her parents if she would ever be able to run like those without her handicap.

Her parents, being faithful believers in God, said to her, "Honey, believe in God and never give up hope." Wilma took to heart her parents' advice. She faithfully trusted God, and daily she tried to improve her running skills. By the time she was 12, she had strengthened her legs so much that she no longer needed braces. Furthermore, when she entered high school, she played on the basketball team and helped the team win the conference title.

Wilma Rudolph, however, will be remembered most of all for the fact that in 1960 she

went to the Olympics, and with her running skills, won three gold medals

Who can deny the power of God, the practice of hope and the wonderful results of perfecting whatever gifts God has given to us?



Our purpose and destiny

In "Letters to Rulers of People," Francis of Assisi wrote these words: "Keep a clear eye toward life's end. Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God's creature. What you are in his sight is what you are and nothing more. Remember, that when you leave this earth, you can take nothing that you have received — fading symbols of honor, trappings of power — but only what you have given: a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage."

Cleveland Charismatic Conference

The 30th Cleveland Charismatic Conference sponsored by Catholic Renewal Ministries will be held July 20th and 21st, 2012, at Magnificat High School in Rocky River. Guest speakers will be Fr. John Gordon, David Mangan and Deacon Dave Pecot. The theme is "Let the Fire Fall." The conference opens on Friday at 7:00p.m. Contact Sue and Joe Palmieri at 440-774-1101 for registration information or visit www.crmweb.org. Advanced registration through July 9th: \$30; at the door: \$35.

If you are able and have not yet contributed any financial support to the Center this year, please respond by using the form below.

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center Financial Commitment Form

- () Beginning in July through the end of 2012 I intend to make or increase my monthly donation
() \$10 () \$25 () \$ 50 () \$ 100 \$ _____
- () I am unable to make a monthly commitment, but I am able to give a donation now to assist the work of the Renewal Center. \$ _____
- () I will send a gift whenever I am able.
- () Enclosed is \$10 for a newsletter subscription.

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

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**

Jo Lutton

Requested by

Judi & Gus Janke

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.

**A person hasn't failed until he begins to blame
 someone else for his failure**

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
 July 1,8,15,22,29; Aug. 5,12,19,26

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
 West 8th & Powell Ave.
 Jack Heintzel 838-1325
 July 1,8,15,22,29; Aug. 5,12,19,26

† 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
 July 2,9,16,23,30; Aug. 6,13,20,27

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
 Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
 At 3:00PM (before Mass)
 July 2,9,16,23,30; Aug. 6,13,20,27
 (Except major holidays)

River of Life PG

1st & 3rd Monday evenings 7:00PM
 St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA
 Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104
 July 3,17; Aug. 6,20

† Tuesday:**Son of God Prayer Group**

Holy Rosary Church
 2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
 Joe Kirsch 459-7100
 July 3,10,17,24,31; Aug. 7,14,21,28

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
 Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
 Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
 July 3,10,17,24,31; Aug. 7,14,21,28

† Wednesday:**St. Mark's Prayer Group**

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
 Religious Education Center
 Emporium, PA
 July 4,11,18,25; Aug. 1,8,15,22,29

† Thursday:**St. Joseph Church Bread of Life
 Prayer Meeting**

7:00PM
 139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
 Regi Connelly 866-0505
 July 5,12,19,26; Aug. 2,9,16,23,30
 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:30PM
 Bill Adam 899-9222
 July 5,12,19,26; Aug. 2,9,16,23,30

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00PM
 5031 W. Ridge Rd..
 S.S.J. Administration Bldg.
 Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
 July 12; Aug. 9

† Friday:**Light of the World Community**

In Home Prayer Meeting
 Call for Location 7:30PM
 Bob Zimmer 868-5344
 July 6,13,20,27; Aug. 3,10,17,24,31



How shall we repay the Lord?

St. Basil the Great: from his Detailed Rules for Monks

“What words can adequately describe God’s gifts? They are so numerous that they defy enumeration. They are so great that any one of them demands our total gratitude in response.

“Yet even though we cannot speak of it worthily, there is one gift which no thoughtful man can pass over in silence God fashioned man in his own image and likeness; he gave him knowledge of himself; he endowed him with the ability to think which raised him above all living creatures; he permitted him delight in the unimaginable beauties of paradise, and gave him dominion over everything upon earth.

“Then, when man was deceived by the serpent and fell into sin, which led to death and to all the sufferings associated with death, God still did not forsake him. He first gave man the law to help him; he set angels over him to guard him; he sent the prophets to denounce vice and teach virtue; he restrained man’s evil impulses by warnings and roused his desire for virtue and of vice in the lives of other men. Moreover, when man continued in disobedience even after he had done all this, God did not desert him.

No, we were not abandoned by the goodness of the Lord. Even the insult we offered to our Benefactor by despising his gifts did not destroy his love for us. On the contrary, although we were dead, our Lord Jesus Christ restored us to life again, and in a way even more amazing than the fact itself, for his state was divine,

yet he did not cling to his equality with God, but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave (see Phil. 2:6-7).

“He bore our infirmities and endured our sorrows. He was wounded for our sake so that by his wounds we might be healed. He redeemed us from the curse by becoming a curse for our sake (see Is. 53:4) and he submitted the most ignominious death in order to exalt us to the life of glory. Nor was he content merely to summon us back from death to life; he also bestowed on us the dignity of his own divine nature and prepared for us a place of eternal rest where there will be joy so intense as to surpass all human imagination.

“How, then, shall we repay the Lord for all his goodness to us? He is so good that he asks no recompense except our love: that is the only payment he desires. To confess my personal feelings, when I reflect on all these blessings I am overcome by a kind of dread and numbness at the very possibility of ceasing to love God and of bringing shame upon Christ because of my lack of recollection and my preoccupation with trivialities.”

From Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours. Reprinted with permission.



A different way to say the rosary

by Judi Janke

When saying the rosary, I am often led to pray it for specific intentions. The first time it happened, I said a rosary to thank God for all he has done in my life. Shortly afterward, an article appeared in the St. Anthony Messenger about a Thanksgiving Rosary! So, I took it as a sign that I was good to go with it.

Next, my focus went to the pro-life issue. This is a rosary during which I pray for new parents, adopted children, and birth parents.

On Fridays, I often say a Suffering Rosary using the decades to lead me to pray for those with mental illness, the physically abused, and those bearing unspeakable pain.

Sometimes, when saying the Luminous Mysteries, I add on some extra decades. Christ meeting the woman at the well is one of my favorite additions. I relate to her and put myself in the picture feeling the hot, dusty day.

Maybe the Lord enjoys my being drawn closer to him by my unconventional use of the rosary. I certainly hope so.



The power of forgiveness

By Jack Heintzel

“...forgiving each other...as God forgave you.” Eph. 4:32

In his book *Daily in Christ*, Neil Anderson tells about the time he was counseling a woman who had been raped. He told her that she needed to forgive the man who did this. Her response was typical of many believers who have suffered physical, sexual, or emotional pain at the hands of others: “Why should I forgive him? You don’t know how badly he hurt me!” Anderson said to her, “He’s still hurting you, Cindy. Forgiveness is how you stop the pain. You don’t forgive him for his sake; you do it for your sake.” Anderson summarized the reasons we should forgive those who have hurt us. First, forgiveness is required by God. Second, it is necessary to avoid entrapment by Satan. Third, we are to forgive like Christ forgives so our hearts don’t become bitter.

In a book called *The Heart Mender*, Andy Andrews tells of some conversations that reveal important truths about forgiveness. The author’s research showed that many u-boats were operating in the Gulf of Mexico during World War II. In the story, a woman named Helen finds a wounded German submariner who is washed up on an Alabama shoreline. Helen’s husband had been killed in the war, and she was very bitter about this. She takes care of the man but can’t forgive the Germans for the death of her husband. Her friend Margaret tries to help her by

saying the following: “It’s not good for you, holding on to all that anger . . . it’s like taking poison and waiting for everyone else to die. There are no hopeless situations, only people who have grown hopeless about them. You still have choices you can make. Forgive. It is truly your only hope. To forgive is to set a prisoner free . . . and discover the prisoner was you.”

Margaret’s husband Billy is also troubled about Helen’s problem with forgiveness. Margaret tells him, “Not to forgive means we yield ourselves to another person’s control — another person’s governing values and *his* attitudes and actions. We are forced by someone else into sequences of act and response, of outrage and revenge, and do you know what? It always gets worse. Our present, when we refuse to forgive, is endlessly overwhelmed by the past. Forgiveness frees the forgiver. Sometimes we attach our entire lives to the moment we were hurt and allow it to define and consume our very existence. We travel with that hurt — that offense — and brood over it every time it comes to mind. We sleep with it, eat with it. The ‘wrong’ that has been done to us dictates how we speak to our children, our spouses, or friends. Even when those who have abused us die, our anger and resentment do not have the decency to do the same! Our hurt continues to live.” Billy responds this way: “Until we forgive, there is no such thing as managing anger. It simply can’t

be done. The only answer is to forgive . . . and get rid of it forever.”

These conversations gave me a lot to think about, because I have had to deal with unforgiveness in the past. Neil Anderson and Andy Andrews agree that we must decide to forgive in order to achieve peace in our lives.

Taking the first step

Understanding forgiveness is one thing; doing it is an entirely different matter. As philosopher C. S. Lewis said, “Everybody says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive.” How do you move from definition (understanding forgiveness) to application (practicing forgiveness)? Making this transition requires your personal initiative. Forgiveness begins with you even though it ought to begin with the other person. Seldom will the person who offended you come to you to ask your forgiveness, so you must take the first step. Jesus reinforced this idea in his teaching: “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:23-24).

2012 Catholic Charismatic Conference

Intercessory Prayer • Clothed with Power from on High

**October 12 & 13,
2012**

**Held at
St. Mark Catholic Center
429 E. Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA**

**Sponsored by:
Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic
Renewal Center**

- *Praise & Worship*
- *Healing Service*
- *Talks*
- *Vendors*

**Conference fee and
lunch cost must
accompany reservation**

**Lunch orders must be in by
October 8, 2012**

Please keep top portion for future reference

**Music by
"Shalom"
with Bart Foradora**

22nd Annual Charismatic Conference October 12 & 13, 2012

Conf. Reg. \$30.00

Late reg. after 9/30/12—\$40.00

Students \$10.00

Married couples (registering together) \$50.00

Optional lunch \$7.00

No meal tickets sold at door

Lunch \$ _____

Conference \$ _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Phone No. _____
(Include all names for name tags)

Address _____ E-mail _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make checks payable to Word of Life Center and send to:
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Phone (814) 824-1286 E-mail wolccrc@aol.com

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Office Hours:
Monday: 9:00am – 2:30pm
T-W-TH: 9:00am – 2:00pm
Friday: Closed

The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide teaching, news and calendar of events, which help to foster Catholic charismatic renewal throughout the diocese of Erie.

Editor: Jack Heintzel
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*Will you not revive
us again,
that your people
may rejoice
in you?*



Psalms 85:6, NIV

July/August 2012