



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

November 2012

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

Christian hope

By Jack Heintzel

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction..." Rom. 12:12

I have seen American Cancer Society tee-shirts with the following motto: "Once you choose hope, anything's possible." This is a good motto for those suffering with cancer, and very appropriate for Christians. In a spiritual sense, we absolutely need the virtue of hope. Hope is very important when we can't see good things happening in our lives or in the world. The Bible has many scriptures encouraging us to cling to Jesus in hope. For example, St. Paul encourages us that we can trust God to save us. In 2 Cor. 1:10b he says, "On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us."

In *Faith* magazine Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman writes about 2 Corinthians by saying, "St. Paul also told us we do not give in to discouragement because we possess our ministry through God's mercy. If anyone had reason to be discouraged, it was Paul. He was shipwrecked and was in prison because his own people turned against him. Yet he wrote, 'We do not give in to discouragement.'" The Bishop goes on to say that Christian

hope is not putting on rose-colored glasses and pretending everything looks better. He says things may not get better for a long while; that's a testing of our faith. He offers another thought: "Christian hope is the courage to be in the circumstances where you find yourself. Christian hope is perseverance."

Peter Gomes of Harvard University comments in *The Good Book* that it is hope that people require in facing their futures, and hope's greatest power is that it enables the present by embracing the future. "Hope does not deny the circumstances of the present, and hope doesn't help us get out of our difficulties. Hope doesn't get us out, but it does get us through."

He says hope is not the enterprise of last resort; it is the quality that transcends both failure and success, for it substitutes the ultimate for the temporary. In the end we will be delivered. Hope is what connects the present to the future; it is the mother of courage, confidence, and endurance. Gomes says hope is the opposite of fear and anxiety, whereas despair is the absence of hope. It does not

operate out of ignorance, as is commonly believed, but out of knowledge: "I know that my Redeemer lives." (Job 19:25) He quotes Dietrich Bonhoeffer as saying that those who take the content of hope seriously see the future as the place where they will find the life for which they are now willing to live and die, and not simply as an escape from the difficulties of the present.

We can find other scriptures which can teach us about hope, such as these: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." (Is. 40:31); "In this we hope we are saved." (Rom. 8:24); "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Heb. 11:1); "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27) And finally in the spirit of Acts 2:26, "Let our hearts be glad and our tongues rejoice, and our bodies live in hope."



November 6, 2012

Centering In

By Liz Geary

- **Prayer Brunch**

Hopefully, you are receiving this edition of *Reflections* prior to the prayer brunch on November 3rd. If so, it is not too late to call the Center at 824-1286 and make your reservations. Deacon John Mang, OSF will be our featured speaker. The cost is \$7.50. Please join us if you are able.

- **End of Year Giving**

As 2012 rapidly comes to a close and the holiday season draws near, many of you will be making tax-deductible gifts to your favorite charities for tax purposes or in lieu of Christmas cards and/or gifts. We pray that you remember the Word of Life Center in your giving. Since almost all of the financial support for the Center's ministries comes from YOU, it is important that we receive end of the year donations and pledges to end the year in the black. Thank you and may God bless you greatly.

- **Newsletter Support**

It's time to renew your subscription to our newsletter, *Reflections*, for 2013! If you could give an additional contribution with your subscription to support those who may not be able to afford their

own subscription at this time, it would be greatly appreciated. Subscription contributions are used to offset the cost of printing and postage. We are very blessed to have a faithful and knowledgeable staff of volunteers who produce *Reflections*. They always appreciate your feedback about specific articles or the newsletter in general. Please detach and complete the form below and send it back to the Center with your check made payable to the Word of Life Center.

- **2013 Pledge Drive**

The December edition of *Reflections* will be mailed to you in an envelope and will be included with the 2013 pledge packet materials. Please pray about having a permanent, planned and monthly contribution to the ministry of the Word of Life Center. If you have any questions regarding the pledge process, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Center directly. May God bless you for your continued generosity and prayers.

- **We Give Thanks!**

As Thanksgiving Day quickly approaches, we remember to give thanks to God for our many blessings. At the Center, we are

especially mindful of all the gifts that God has bestowed upon us in 2012. Among these blessings are our tireless volunteers, our generous financial contributors, careful oversight from our Board of Directors under the direction of Diocesan Liaison Mike Vehec, our outstanding administrative assistant, Barbara Schlosser, and the guidance of our spiritual directors, Msgr. John Carter and Fr. David Poulson. We appreciate all of them, pray for them and hope that they know what a special blessing they are!

A Guide for Giving

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little.

"If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them."

— C.S. Lewis

Newsletter Support for 2012

Name _____ Phone _____ () Enclosed is my contribution to
Support the cost of the Newsletter
\$10 () \$20 () Other \$ _____
Address _____ () I can't afford anything now.
Please continue to send the newsletter.
City/State/Zip _____ () Please remove my name from your
(include last 4 digits) mailing list.

Send to: Word of Life Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie PA 16504-0397

Contentment

By Agnes Helsley

A little note in my daily devotional caused me to really contemplate “am I content?” This is the thought-provoking note: “Contentment is not possessing everything but giving thanks for everything you possess.” It has made me take note of the many things I have to be grateful for – things I have taken for granted. First on my list is the privilege to live (and even to be born) in this great country, a nation blessed by Almighty God in its initial founding. We have also been blessed by the sacrifice of so many to protect and maintain our freedoms – and they are many.

The daughter of an immigrant from Portugal, I can remember my father studying United States history in order to pass the test to become an American citizen. He was so proud of those papers that verified his citizenship, and yet he fondly remembered his native land and shared those memories with his children.

I am grateful for my special needs grandson, Jack, who is named for his great-grandfather. Little Jack is such a great gift to our family. Recently, he fell into disfavor though. He was helping Daddy who had taken the cap off the gas tank of his John Deere tractor preparing to fill the tank with gas. Jack abhors a vacuum. If something is wide open for filling, it calls to him. He decided to fill the gas tank with pine needles. This was very displeasing to Daddy who promptly removed Jack from the backyard to the time-out chair where there was the weeping

and wailing and gnashing of teeth. Thank God, Jack is very lovable and does not bear a grudge; the relationship is healed. Time spent babysitting Jack is fun and a little challenging at times. Jack loves books, and I am so grateful that he shares that love with me. We are very committed to reading stacks of books together. His very favorite is *The Adventures of Sheriff Woody*.

Even the aging process is something to be grateful for; the aches and pains remind us to be grateful that we are still alive. The needs in our lives remind us to pray to our Father in heaven for strength, faith and our daily bread. During this month of Thanksgiving, let us have grateful hearts for the people we love and all that our loving God has seen fit with which to bless us. “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Ps 120:4-5)

A family prayer

Lord, behold our family here assembled.

We thank you for this place in which we dwell
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us this day,

for the hope with which we expect the morrow,
for the work, the health, the food, and bright skies
that makes our lives delightful
for our friends in all parts of the earth. Amen

— Robert Louis Stevenson

What is man profited?

“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul. Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matt. 16:26

I want to ask you a question: What is a man profited in this world if he knows all about botany and does not have in his life the beauty of Jesus, the Rose of Sharon? What is a man profited if he can look through a telescopic lens and talk to you about astronomy if he does not know Jesus, the Bright and Morning Star, and Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, with healing in his wings? What is a man profited if he knows all about the ages of the rocks and does not know the Rock of Ages?

What will it profit, when life here is o’er, though gathering riches and fame, if gaining the world I lose my own soul, and in Heav’n unknown is my name?

— Choice Gleanings

Returning thanks

How often must [God] look down upon us in sadness at our forgetfulness of his repeated blessings and his frequent answer to our prayers.

Returning thanks for blessings already received increases our faith and enables us to approach God with new boldness and new assurance. As we reflect [on] the wondrous goodness of God toward us on the one hand, and upon the other hand upon the little thought and strength and time that we ever put into thanksgiving, we may well humble ourselves before God and confess our sin.

— R. A. Torrey

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 West 38th St. 7:30pm
Wednesday November 7
Celebrant: Fr. David Poulson

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

Requested by

In memory of
Michael Alessi
John Tautin, Sr.
Esther Krans
Infants Gavin & Samuel
Tomlinson
Richard Sardini
Joseph (Alex) Ulrich Jr.
Jack Enders
Aggie Rasalaski
Shirley Kennett
Irene D. Swanson

Vinnie and Joie Martin
“ “ “
Audi and Jack Reese
“ “ “
Carol Mando
Ray and Mary Pilewski
Sr. Marie Celeste
“ “ “
Ed and Agnes Helsley

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.

“Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders.”

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
Nov.: 4,11,18,25

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
Nov. 4,11,18,25

† 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
Nov. 5,12,19,26

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
Nov. 5,12,19,26
(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
Nov. 5,19

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Joe Kirsch 459-7100
Nov. 6,12,20,27

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
Nov. 6,13,20,27

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
Nov. 7,14,21,28

† Thursday:

**St. Joseph Church Bread of Life
Prayer Meeting** 7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connelly 866-0505
Nov. 1,8,15,29 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
Bill Adam 899-9222
Nov. 1,8,15,29

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Administration Bldg.
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
Nov. 8

† Friday:

Light of the World Community
In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
Nov. 2,9,16,23,30

Deliver us from evil

by Kathy Wilcox

Many individuals who say they are Christian do not think that Satan exists or has any influence in our lives. This is a dangerous mindset. If we look around us, we see evil attacking individuals, families, religious institutions and governments. Satan wants to destroy every person who believes in Christ. Even those of us who acknowledge the existence of Satan may be content to sit back complacently and let others confront the evil. We look to our president, elected officials, law enforcement and military to be our shield.

What we have to realize is that every living person on this earth is under attack; and while there are real wars being fought and people are being killed, it is a spiritual battle, not a physical one. St. Peter admonished us to "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

We are naïve to think that a new president can change the course of world events currently unfolding. While leadership is important, we need to understand that this is not a new war. The battle between good and evil has been going on since Adam and Eve. We also need to realize that we personally need to be warriors in the battle. Jesus gave us the essence of the real war when he gave us the "Our Father," and included "deliver us from evil" in the prayer.

As warriors we need to put on the armor of God described by St. Paul in Ephesians 6:10-18: "Finally, be strong in the Lord

and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Over 100 years ago, in 1882, Pope Leo XII had a vision from God about a century in the future where Satan would rear his ugly head and try to defeat God's people. Pope Leo's response was to write the following prayer and decree that it be prayed after all low Masses:

"Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen."

Pope John Paul called attention to the St. Michael prayer in 1994, reminding us of the battle still being waged and encouraging us to use it in our prayer time. Are we living in that century? We need to trust God, and as his warriors we need to PRAY the St. Michael prayer, PRAY the Lord's Prayer, PRAY the rosary, PRAY in tongues! It is prayer that will protect us from the evil one. It is prayer that is the weapon that will defeat Satan. PRAY!!!

Do You Know?

by Agnes Helsley

This little quiz was printed in *Impact*, which is a publication issued by the Coral Ridge Ministries.

Which president stated, "...those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord?"

- a. George Washington
- b. James Buchanan
- c. Abraham Lincoln
- d. Teddy Roosevelt

Answer: Abraham Lincoln. During the dark days of the Civil War, during the Spring of 1863, President Lincoln called for a Day of Fasting and Prayer. He reminded Americans that we have been blessed abundantly by God, but that we have forgotten Him. He noted, "Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us." Thus, Abraham Lincoln called on all Americans to repent and turn back to the Lord. His was a timeless message that we need to hear and to heed in our own day as well.

An invitation to Holy Hour in Meadville

Everyone is invited to a Praise and Worship Holy Hour on Thursday, Nov. 8th at 7:00 PM. It will take place at St. Mary of Grace Parish on Water St. in Meadville. There will also be Afterglow of the Eucharist with prayer teams for individual, private prayer after Holy Hour.

The charism of invitation
By Sr. Magdalena Casas-Nava, DLJC

What is the charism of invitation? We will begin with a simple definition: the charism of invitation is a gift of anointing of the Holy Spirit to request from others their presence or participation in building up the Kingdom of God. As with any charism, its effectiveness goes beyond human ingenuity. Another trait of this charism is its eminent personal character. It usually appeals to the individual person for a particular mission. A man or woman may have a natural ability for being welcoming, inviting, or persuasive; but an anointing of the Holy Spirit is manifested when a person is inspired by the Lord to invite another person for a particular purpose in the Kingdom of God.

How do we know if the inspiration comes from the Lord, or from a merely human sympathy, or from the devil? There is need for discernment here. We in the Renewal tend to attribute to the Lord any inspiration or idea that crosses our minds, and many times it could be true, but the discernment or the origin of any inspiration is not completed until further examination. Is it directed towards the building up of the Kingdom of God? Are its effects beyond human ingenuity? Sometimes we would not know these until we have acted upon the inspiration. Let us comment on these criteria for discernment.

For an invitation to be directed towards the building up of the Kingdom of God, it must be focused on growth in charity, the

increase of the holiness of the Church, and/or a change in the world towards a more evangelical society. In other words, the invitation must be connected to evangelization by making Christ more present to the person, helping the person grow in his or her evangelistic effectiveness, or helping the person better live out the Gospel values in his everyday life.

Saul, after his conversion from being a persecutor of the church, had great difficulty convincing fellow believers of his authenticity. It was not until Barnabas, presumably inspired by the Holy Spirit, went to Tarsus to find him and bring him to Antioch, where both taught the community for a year. (See Acts 11:25-26.) The invitation of Barnabas was the beginning of the ministry of the great Apostle to the Gentiles.

We can find in the Bible other stories of invitations directed towards the building up of the Kingdom, and which effects are long-lasting. Andrew invited his brother Simon to meet Jesus (Jn 1:41-42.) Simon eventually became the first of an unbroken line of Popes. Phillip sought Nathaniel and told him "We have found the Messiah...come and see." (Jn 1:45-46) Both eventually shed their blood for Christ. But the origin and greatest example of the charism of invitation is the Lord himself who let the first disciples "find him," and told them "come and see." (Jn 1:39)

Being effective evangelists is not a matter of technique, but

rather of genuine union with Christ. It is only after "abiding with Him" that Christ's disciples go out and invite others to "come and see," then the Lord may touch and change them also. It is, in the end, Christ himself who invites, now through his disciples.

*Excerpted from
Pentecost Today, Jan-Mar 2012
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The benefits of gratitude

Christians realize that gratitude has spiritual benefits, but now scientists are confirming its physical and emotional benefits, as well.

Professor Robert Emmons found that people who counted their blessings instead of their burdens were healthier and more optimistic, exercised more and made more progress toward achieving goals. Evidence shows that gratitude can even ease chronic health conditions.

Emmons, author of *Thanks! How Practicing Gratitude Can Make You Happier* (Mariner Books), acknowledges that gratitude seems harder to practice during rough times. But, he notes, "In the face of demoralization, gratitude has the power to energize. In the face of brokenness, gratitude has the power to heal. In the face of despair, gratitude has the power to bring hope."

Word of Life Center would like to thank those who have generously given Pledges and Gifts during 2012 *

Rafal & Halina Ablamowicz
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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.

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