



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

November 2013

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

By any other name

By Amy Mosbacher

It's said that a rose by any other name is still a rose. Halloween. Sounds like “All Hallows Eve,” doesn't it? In this case the name remains the same, but I believe the holiday has changed. Do people dress up now to ward off evil spirits, or do they emulate them? Do we receive soul cakes (doughnuts) in return for our prayers for the dead, or do children beg for candy simply for the sake of the candy? When I was growing up, Halloween for me was just a time to have fun dressing up and carving pumpkins. However, as I discovered what was supposed to be celebrated, and what was actually being celebrated, it became more disturbing.

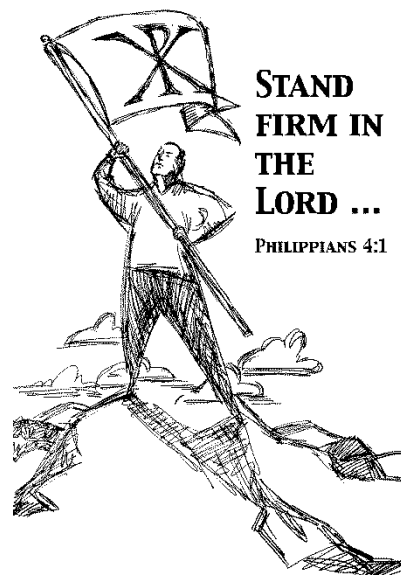
All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) and All Souls' Day are the Church's memorial days. During this time we honor our loved ones who are already in Heaven and praying for us, and those who are yet in Purgatory and we pray for them. Each country has its own traditions that have sprung up in relation to the holiday, ranging from going to cemeteries to pray for the dead to the poor begging for food in return for prayers. In Mexico, picnics are held in graveyards, satirizing death, the enemy conquered by Christ. Yet

somewhere along the way, a gradual transformation occurred. The focus point, honoring those souls who've escaped eternal death because of Christ, was shrouded in a glorification of that eternal death. Now what was once a Christian holiday has been turned to worship the “other.”

Not to say that it's all devil worship. Making the largest rise in culture today is the New Age Movement (NAM), which is largely American-based. For the sake of space and simplicity, the NAM is the rebirth of pagan religions. For them, Jesus was an enlightened leader of his time but no more. They believe the earth is a living entity. Those of a Wiccan philosophy as well as others have chosen Halloween as their high holy day. Now, where Christ is no longer highlighted, we have all sorts of pagan influences: witches and wizards, crystals, divination and horoscopes, superstition, charms and more. Wherever we open the door a crack the devil will sneak in, in innocent disguise, till we no longer know what it is we celebrate.

We can't fix what went wrong with Halloween in a year or two. What we can do is start praying to discern the good from the bad.

Have the Halloween party, but reconsider the focus. In all things praise God, because the devil can't stand it when we praise Him. Through prayer we can *“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 powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil...”* (Eph.6: 11-12) Let's just be sure we know whom it is we're honoring before we celebrate any occasion.



Centering in

By Liz Geary

• Newsletter support

It's time to renew your subscription to the Word of Life Center newsletter, *Reflections*, for 2014! 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. Every month the Center incurs costs of \$217 in printing and \$30 in postage for the newsletter, so anything that you can give will be greatly appreciated. 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 payment. Checks are payable to the Word of Life Center.

• All Things New retreat

The Center is continuing to accept donations and monetary gifts for the "All Things New" Life in the Spirit retreat for college students taking place Nov. 1st-3rd at St. Joe's com-

munity center. Please be sure to write "college retreat" somewhere with your donation. There are still slots available for the intention of the retreat in the St. Joe's adoration chapel. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in donations.

Please continue to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the participants and the team.

• 2014 pledge drive

This is just a reminder that the December edition of *Reflections* will be mailed to you in an envelope and will be included with the 2014 pledge packet. Please pray about having a permanent, planned contribution to the ministry of the Word of Life Renewal Center. As always, your generous gift is tax deductible. If you have any questions regarding the pledge process, please do not hesitate to contact the Center. May God bless you for your continued generosity and your continued prayers.

• Day of reflection

Many thanks is given to the team of volunteers who helped with the day of reflection/reunion on Sat., Oct. 19th at the Cambridge Springs Correctional Facility. A special thank you goes to Kathy Wilcox for organizing the day. The theme of forgiveness was well received.

• New book available

The Center has acquired a new book for the lending library.

More of the Holy Spirit: How to Keep the Fire Burning in Our Hearts by Sr. Ann Shields, SGL is now available. "How do we have 'more' of the Holy Spirit in our lives - His gifts, His fervor, His zeal for souls? How do we become true disciples, willing to do whatever it takes to serve the Lord, using the gifts He has given us? This is the call to us, brothers and sisters, to you and me!" (taken from the introduction). Please call the Center if you are interested in borrowing this or any other material.

• End-of-year giving

As 2013 rapidly comes to a close and the holiday season draws near, many of you may be making tax-deductible gifts to your favorite charities for tax purposes or in lieu of Christmas cards or gifts. Please remember the Word of Life Renewal Center when you are making your donations. Since almost all of the financial support for the Center comes from YOU, it is important that we receive year-end donations and pledges to end the year in the black. Thank you and God bless you for your continued support of our ministry.

Newsletter Support for 2014

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 mailing list.
E-mail Address _____		

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

Mary's five promises

By Kathy Wilcox

It is my goal to pray every day. I wish that I could say that I do, but it is hard to keep a disciplined routine. I find that the rosary is a lifeline linking me to Jesus and Mary; and when I start a rosary, I will likely finish praying those prayers. I have connected special mysteries of the rosary to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of those for whom I pray. By doing that, I can easily remember those on my list.

Some examples: the second Joyful Mystery: I visualize Mary visiting her distant cousin and I pray for the reconciliation of alienated families.

The third Joyful Mystery, The Nativity, is dedicated to all those who have not yet asked Jesus to be born in their hearts.

During the fifth Joyful Mystery, The Finding in the Temple, I pray for family, friends and all fallen away Catholics, that they may be found by Jesus and brought back to the church.

The first Luminous Mystery is the Baptism in the Jordan. This decade is prayed for several people I know who have never been baptized.

With the second Luminous Mystery, the Wedding Feast at Cana, I always pray for those on my list who have an alcohol problem. I pray that Mary will ask Jesus to turn their wine into water.

The fourth Sorrowful Mystery is The Carrying of the Cross, and here I pray for those I know who are carrying heavy burdens.

The first and fourth Glorious Mysteries, the Ascensions of Jesus and Mary, are good times to pray for departed family, friends and all those who receive no prayers. I pray that they may be released from Purgatory.

Our Blessed Mother has continued to appear to the

Medjugorje visionaries. On September 2, 2012, she made a specific request to us all: pray for atheists, those "who have not come to know the love of the Heavenly Father." I had to find the right

decade for this group of people and finally realized that the third Luminous Mystery, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, should be for all the atheists. I ask that Jesus reveal His love to them and His wonderful promises!

Mary has such urgency for this prayer request to us that she has promised five wonderful gifts if we heed her plea.

She promises:

1. "I will strengthen you."
2. "I will fill you with my graces."
3. "With my love, I will protect you from the evil spirit."
4. "I will be with you."
5. "With my presence, I will

console you in difficult moments."

These are gifts that you cannot buy, and come straight from heaven. We are being entrusted with the heartfelt desire of Mary and Jesus, and we will be blessed if we respond with prayers from our hearts.

The original Medjugorje petition from Our Lady was "Pray with your heart." Using the rosary will not only keep you on task, it will help you to remember all those on your prayer list!



Jesus' ultimate purpose

"The whole purpose of Jesus' life was ultimately to enable us to live in the Holy Spirit. We need to be charismatic people, who are open to prophetic movements of the Lord, open to God working in everyday moments. Love is generous. The charisms are an expression of God's generosity working through us, and of our surrender to letting God lead. So we want to say, 'Lord, if I'm not surrendering to anything new, I'm not being deepened in love.'"

*Fr. Bob Hogan, Pentecost
Today, Spring 2013*

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday November 6

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

Steve Balot
Theda Schneider

Jim Olon

Requested by

Ray Pilewski Family
T. A. Walkiewicz
Carol Mando
Mr. & Mrs. John Reese

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.

**“Blessed are those who can give without remembering
and take without forgetting.”**

– Elizabeth Bibesco

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. 3, 10, 17, 24

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24

† 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. 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)
Nov. 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
Nov. 11, 25

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27

† Thursday:

St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Prayer Meeting

7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Gene Kobal 392-1162
Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
Bill Adam 899-9222
Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
Nov. 14

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In-Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



A little faith may be enough

By Jack Heintzel

"You of little faith...why do you doubt?" Matt. 14:31

In my last article I was focusing on Jesus' saying, recorded in John 14:12, that "anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing." But how do we get enough faith to do that? That is probably a question that most of us have asked ourselves.

A recent Mass reading told the story of Jonah. He was a Hebrew prophet of God who was called to take a trip to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them. But this reluctant prophet didn't want to obey God on this matter, because he hated the Assyrians like most Jews did. The Assyrians were mortal enemies; he didn't want them to be converted but rather to be destroyed. So he bought a ship ticket and went in the opposite direction – to flee from the Lord. But God foiled his plan and caused a great storm that resulted in Jonah being tossed overboard and swallowed by a great fish that vomited him onto dry land.

God eventually had His way, and Jonah finally went to Nineveh. On the first day of preaching to them, the whole city responded to God's message. Even the king repented in sackcloth and ashes, and proclaimed that all in the city must call urgently on God. They were instructed to give up their evil ways and their violence, that God might save them. So God did have mercy on them, just as Jonah had feared. Jonah became angry with God for showing mercy on the Ninevites. But even then God did not give up on

Jonah, but was patient with him. He said He had to save the city because "Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left...should I not be concerned about that great city?" (Jonah 4:11)

In *Living with Christ*, Fr. George Smiga comments that Nineveh would never be open to accepting the preaching of a Jewish prophet. Jonah's mission seemed doomed to failure. Yet the whole city repented! Fr. Smiga says, "The story of Jonah is told in this way to demonstrate the power of God's grace. Even when the odds are fully against us, if it is God's will, the unthinkable becomes possible."

I was thinking about Jonah's faith in this venture. He could not have had much faith in God to act the way he did. So how about us? Even when our faith seems so little, can we have enough confidence in God to do whatever He asks of us? I think about what Jesus told His disciples when they asked Him to increase their faith. Jesus said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." (Luke 17:6) Wow! That's hard to believe. But it is not so much the amount of our faith that matters. What matters is doing God's will and believing He can and will supply the grace required. Let's remember the words of Jesus in Matt. 21:21, where He says that if we have faith and do not doubt, we can do great things in His name.

Returning thanks

"Life-saving" was a popular extracurricular activity at Northwestern University during the second half of the 19th century. During four decades, students saved more than 400 people from drowning in Lake Michigan.

During a nighttime storm on September 8, 1860, *Lady Elgin*, a steamboat carrying 393 passengers, was hit by a lumber schooner. The steamboat sank, and 287 people drowned. Northwestern sophomore Edward Spencer swam out to offer aid and ended up rescuing 17 people.

Apparently, the ordeal was so stressful that Spencer became delirious and was confined to a wheelchair for life. When he turned 80, Spencer was asked to share his most vivid memory of that tragic day. "Not one of the 17 returned to thank me," he replied.

This is reminiscent of Jesus' miracle in Luke 17:11-19. Only one of 10 healed lepers returned to thank Jesus for restoring his physical health.

God made a tremendous sacrifice to rescue us. We can return thanks to him each day through our love and grateful obedience.

*WE GIVE YOU THANKS,
AND praise YOUR
glorious name.*

I CHRONICLES 29:13, NIV

Pope Francis: Charismatic movement a gift to the whole church

By Francis X. Rocca

Catholic News Service (Vatican Letter 8/9/13)

(Ed. note: this article has been edited for brevity)

VATICAN CITY - During World Youth Day celebrations in Rio de Janeiro, July 23-28, many worshippers in the crowds could be seen swaying from side to side, arms raised in the air, wearing rapt or joyous expressions on their faces. Such scenes, along with on-stage appearances by celebrities such as Father Marcelo Rossi, a mega-church pastor whose records and movies regularly top the charts in his native Brazil, testified to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal's strong influence on the church in Latin America today.

As the Church continues to lose members in the region with the world's largest Catholic population, the Charismatic movement stands out as a source of hope, not only for fending off the formidable competition of Pentecostal Protestantism, but for raising morale among the faithful as a whole.

Though not even half a century old, the movement claims that at least 120 million Catholics in 238 countries have been "baptized in the Holy Spirit," according to a 2012 document published by International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services. The movement, which started in the United States, reports fast growth in Asia and Africa. But the world's largest concentration of Charismatics today is in Latin America, where 16 percent of Catholics identify themselves as participants.

One of the movement's pioneers

was Jesuit Father Edward Dougherty, founder of Brazil's Seculo 21 Catholic satellite television channel. When the Louisiana native moved to Brazil in 1966, he discovered a country where, as in most of Latin America, vocations and Mass attendance rates had languished. He also learned that a recent Catholic movement to promote social justice in the region had led, in some cases, to neglect of otherworldly values. Meanwhile, Pentecostal Protestants were enthusiastically spreading their message to great success among the traditionally Catholic population. Pentecostals "talk about the spiritual needs of the people," Father Dougherty said. "Often their churches, their temples, are more open than the Catholic churches," and their pastors are more willing to visit people in their homes than Catholic clergy are.

The (Protestant) Pentecostal movement has continued to rise, from 6 percent of Brazil's population in 1991 to 13 percent in 2010, according to a recent Pew Research Center study based on Brazilian census data. In the same period, the Catholic share of the country's population fell from 83 percent to 65 percent. A 2006 Pew survey of Pentecostals in Brazil found that 45 percent were converts from Catholicism.

Although the Catholic Charismatic renewal has strong ecumenical roots, and its members have often worshipped

together with Pentecostals, it also functions as a vehicle for retaining or winning back Catholics tempted by the Protestant alternative.

Like Pentecostalism, Charismatic Catholicism emphasizes the Holy Spirit, features faith healing and speaking in tongues and is spread by door-to-door evangelists. But the important roles it gives to Mary and the Eucharist ensure that Charismatic devotion has a clear Catholic identity.

One early skeptic was Argentine Jesuit Father Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis. "Back at the end of the 1970's and the beginning of the 1980's, I had no time for Charismatics. Now I regret it," he said. "Now I think that this movement does much good for the church, overall."

"I don't think that the Charismatic Renewal movement merely prevents people from passing over to Pentecostal denominations," Pope Francis said. "No! It is also a service to the Church herself! It renews us."



I want to know
Christ and the power
of his resurrection....

Philippians 3:10

Word of Life Center would like to thank those who have generously given pledges and gifts during 2013*

Rafal and Halina Ablamowicz
Bill and June Adam
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Eileen Anderson
Dan Arndt
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Lore Jean Blair
Roseanne Blair
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* This list is current as of October 17, 2013.
It does not include event registrations,
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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.

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