



Reflections

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

November 2014

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

Charismatic Day of Renewal, Sept. 6, 2014: “Fully Catholic, Fully Charismatic”

By Kathy Wilcox

This year was different. We did not have a conference; we had a Day of Renewal. But what a day it was!!

Renée Marazon, Catholic author, consultant and conference/retreat presenter led the day. She is well known to our women as a frequent director of our annual women's retreat. The event was held in the upper room of St Joseph's Parish Center, where we praised the Lord, prayed, and heard his word from Scripture and in prophecy.

Have you ever felt like you are more Charismatic than Catholic? Renée gave us excellent teachings on what the charisms are and how they were intended for the whole church. In fact, she explained, “When Jesus gave us a mandate to build the church he did not want us to use shovels, bricks and mortar; he meant for us to use the charisms!” The New Catholic Catechism (#798) tells us that “The Holy Spirit uses special graces (called “charisms”) by which he makes the faithful (every member of the church) fit and ready to undertake various tasks and offices for the renewal and building up of the Church.” What this tells us is that **we are Fully**

Catholic and Fully Charismatic as every Catholic should be!

Renée explained that many are not using their gifts because they are not aware what their strongest gifts are. She led us through a self-inventory test to reveal our strengths. Then we moved into groups with others who were led in the same direction, so we could share with them and support one another.

It was an incredible day! We came to a deeper understanding of how we must surrender to and cooperate with the Holy Spirit. And we did. We prayed, we praised God, we received prophecies, we shared with each other, we were blessed, we were renewed, and we interceded for each other. We also interceded for gifts to be poured out on the church and on us. We went to the Upper Room, and the Holy Spirit came! We sang “Come Holy Spirit, let the fire fall!” and we were showered with his gifts, wisdom, and love!

Testimony:

Here is the testimony of one participant: “The Upper Room was amazing. The presence of the Holy Spirit was overwhelming. I

truly felt that all the people received more this day than at the previous retreats. They were all intent and open-minded and no one moved during the talks. You could hear a pin drop. It was amazing, and I keep giving God the glory. The one-on-one discussions were priceless and powerful. The intimacy, the wholehearted interest in everyone at the small groups, and the love shared with one another was so sincere and beautiful. It was a day of surrender. THANK YOU JESUS!”

A Thanksgiving meditation

My God, I want to think back over all your mercies toward me and tell the world about them with a thankful heart. Let my bones be soaked in your love until all my being cries out, “Lord, who is like you? You burst open the chains that bound me. I will offer to you the sacrifice of praise.”

– St. Augustine of Hippo

Centering in

By Liz Geary

Newsletter Support

It's time to renew your subscription to the *Reflections* for 2015! If you could give an additional contribution to support those who may not be able to afford their own subscription at this time, it would be appreciated. Subscription contributions are used to offset the cost of printing and postage for the newsletter. Every month the Center incurs costs of \$217 for printing and \$35 in bulk mail postage for the newsletter, so anything that you are able to give will help in deferring these costs. We are very blessed to have a faithful and knowledgeable staff of volunteers, led by Editor Jack Heintzel, who produce *Reflections*. They always appreciate your feedback about specific articles or the newsletter in general. Please detach and complete the form below and return it to the Center with your payment in the envelope provided. Checks are payable to

the Word of Life Renewal Center. God bless you for your generosity.

2015 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 2015 pledge packet. Please pray about having a planned, permanent 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 contact me at the Center. Thank you in advance for your support and your prayers.

List of Contributors

On page 7 of this edition of *Reflections*, you will find a list of contributors to the Center for 2014. I would like to offer a sincere thanks to everyone who helped the ministries the Center supports through their financial contributions. You will continue to be in my daily prayers. May God bless you for your faithful support.

Office Updates

The office of the Word of Life Renewal Center will be closed Nov. 27th -28th and Dec. 1st in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will open on Wed. Dec. 3rd at the usually scheduled time.

Cambridge Springs Reunion

Please join me in praying for the LISS reunion at SCI Cambridge Springs on Sat., Nov. 8th. Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and that the theme of intercessory prayer is well received. A special thank you goes to Kathy Wilcox and T.A. Walkiewicz, with the entire team, for organizing the day.



November 30, 2014

Newsletter Support for 2015

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- ☐ I can't afford anything now. Please continue to send the newsletter
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Send to: Word of Life Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504-0397

Music, messages, and our Messiah

By Dan E. Arndt

Last weekend my family and I participated in an amazing opportunity. Patiently waiting for three years, we were in line at 4 PM waiting to experience Rock the Lakes. Over 200 churches in the Northwestern PA area and the Billy Graham Evangelical Association worked hard praying, raising funds, and providing numerous outreach discipleship experiences in those three years to bring this event to Erie. Over the course of two days (September 27th & 28th), BGEA brought in various Contemporary Christian Music acts to help save souls in Erie. Each day of the event provided music for all ages. While Saturday was billed for the teenage to young adult audience, Sunday focused on more spiritual and lighter musical acts geared for a more mature audience.

Music has and always will play an important part in our lives. We listen or participate in music for various reasons. Whether it is to escape from a difficult situation or to praise God, music is there to help us along the way. Yet, music also has a destructive side. A good percentage of today's secular music has destructive messages. These messages range from immorality and false idol worship to anger and hate toward others. What we listen to in our homes, businesses, and vehicles affects not only us but also others around us including friends, family, children, and grandchildren.

Growing up, I had a major distrust of God and anything Christian. I didn't believe. The main reason was because of all the pain in my life. I lived in a dark hole for so many years. Negative

thoughts and suicide were common occurrences back then. Unfortunately, I went deeper into the darkness because of the different music I listened to at the time. Heavy Metal, Glam Metal, and Hardcore Rap were false soothers to the pain. Instead of making things get better, the music I listened to made it worse. It was so bad that at one point I tried to act on committing suicide. Fortunately for me, God intervened.



A week after that attempt I met my wife. I converted to Catholicism and accepted the idea of God. Even throughout this time, I continued sinful behavior and listening to damaging music. One day in 2010, I finally got sick of the music on the radio. It seemed as though every song was the same—just a different artist with a different beat or melody. The music made me sick because of the content. But, I couldn't just stop listening to music. I had to find a new outlet. This is where my journey into Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) and a deeper relationship with God started.

You see, God likes to lead me through creative outlets. Shortly

after I began listening to Christian Rock, I made a Life in the Spirit seminar. It was a lyric I heard in a Fireflight song that helped me to understand that making the Life in the Spirit was the right thing to do. While there are many who oppose various types of CCM for different reasons, CCM does help some people. As a polar opposite of secular music, CCM can bring messages of hope, love, and faith.

Anyway, as for Rock the Lakes on Saturday night, I got to see two of my favorite performers and gained new favorites at the same time. The feeling in the Erie Insurance Arena was intense. You could feel the Holy Spirit all throughout the building during each performance. To see thousands of young adults who openly expressed their love for God and Jesus was awe-inspiring. This concert was just what I and many others needed. I learned more about Lacey Sturm, former lead singer of Flyleaf, and her difficult life. I felt a strong connection with her because we had many similarities in our lives growing up. Her testimony on how God intervened in her life the day she planned to commit suicide made me cry. Lacey's story has inspired me.

We all have a specific reason to be alive each day. In Lacey's book, *The Reason: How I Discovered a Life Worth Living*, she details her inspiring transformation from hating God and suicidal thoughts to trusting God and fulfilling her reason for life—to tell her story.

Cont. on page 5

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday Nov. 5, 2014

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

Larry Olon
Doris McAlee
Helen Mille Hermann
Sr. Anastasia Valimont
Lilian Greene
James Walsh, Jr.

Requested by

Judi Janke, Ruth Olon, Ray & Mary Pilewski
Eugene & Rachel Fitch
Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
Ray and Mary Pilewski

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.

**“No person was ever honored for what
he received.
Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”**

— Calvin Coolidge

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
November 2,9,16,23,30

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
November 2,9,16,23,30

† 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
November 3,10,17,24

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
November 3,10,17,24
(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
November 10,24

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
November 4,11,18,25

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
November 4,11,18,25

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
November 5,12,19,26

† Thursday: Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 4:30PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd.
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
November 13

St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life Prayer Meeting

7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Regi Connelly (814) 866-0505
November 6,13,20, 27 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
John Griebel 825-3588
November 6,13,20,27

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
November 7,14,21,28

Pope Francis speaking of charisms

Dear brothers and sisters,

From the beginning, the Lord filled the Church with the gifts of his Spirit, thus rendering her always alive and fruitful. Distinguished among these gifts are some that are particularly precious for the building and journey of the Christian community: they are the charisms. In this catechesis, we want to ask ourselves: what, exactly is a charism? How can we recognize and receive it? And, above all, the fact that in the church there is a diversity and multiplicity of charisms, is this seen positively, as something good, or rather as a problem?

In ordinary language, when there is talk of a “charism,” it is often understood as a talent, as a natural ability. So in face of a particularly brilliant and moving person, it is usually said, “He is a charismatic person.” In the Christian perspective, however, a charism is something more than a personal quality, a predisposition of which one might be gifted. A charism is a grace, a gift lavished by God the Father through the action of the Holy Spirit. And it is a gift that is given to someone, not because he is better than others or because he merited it; it is a gift that God makes so that, with the same gratuitousness and the same love, he can put it at the service of the whole community, for the good of all.

Something important that must be stressed immediately is the fact that one cannot understand on one’s own if one has a charism, and which one. It is within the community that the gifts with

which the Father fills us flow and flourish; and it is in the heart of the community that one learns to recognize them as a sign of his love for all his children. So it is good that each one of us ask himself: “Is there some charism that the Lord has made arise in me, in the grace of his Spirit, and which my brothers in the Christian community have recognized and encouraged? And how do I conduct myself in regard to this gift?”

Dear friends, see what the Lord asks of us today: to recognize with joy and gratitude the different charisms that he distributes in the community, to put ourselves on the line for one another, according to the ministries and services to which we are called. In this way, the Church grows with the grace of her Lord and becomes in all times and places a credible sign and living testimony of the love of God.

*Excerpted with permission from
National Service Committee letter of
October 7, 2014.*

The first Thanksgiving Day

Heap high the board with
plenteous cheer,

And gather in the feast.

And toast the sturdy Pilgrim band

Whose courage ne’er ceased.

Give praise to the All-Gracious
One

By Whom their steps were led,
And thanks unto the harvests’
Lord

who sends our daily bread.

—Alice Williams Brotherton

Music, Messages from page 3

If you get the opportunity, read Lacey’s book and watch the recorded event on the BGEA website. You’ll see the excitement that this event brought to our community. You’ll get excited to see how many young adults were saved when Franklin Graham asked them to come forward.

The event was spectacular. I wish we could have seen Sunday’s performances, but I’m so glad that I trusted the Spirit in making that commitment to attend Saturday night. I needed that spark to bring me back from where my life has been heading since June, but that’s another story for another time.

Searching for saints

God is on a saint search, and it’s not only perfect people who are going to be found. Sure, there may be some who are born with the natural ability to love the Lord with the totality of heart, soul, mind and strength, nonstop. But for most of us, this passion and power come only after we discover that God has always loved us, and that his love precedes our own.

Fact is, most of us find the Lord only after we have been found by him.

And all God asks is that we respond with that same level of passion ... loving him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength ... and showing a willingness to love our neighbors as ourselves.

If we do, we’ll be God’s holy ones, set apart for his service.

— Homiletics

Sitting with God

By Jack Heintzel

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him...”

I recently re-discovered an old book entitled *Sit, Walk, Stand* by Watchman Nee. The author preached in China in the 1930s prior to the Japanese war and the beginning of World War II. His real name was Nee To-sheng. The preface states that the Chinese people had much more evangelistic freedom in those days, compared to the restrictions later imposed by the Communist regime.

The book covers the whole of St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. We can draw many lessons from this letter and Nee's words. If we examine Ephesians, we see that the first part, chapters 1-3, is mainly doctrinal. The second part, chapters 4-6, is primarily practical. It seems that most Scripture scholars believe that Ephesians contains the highest spiritual truths concerning the Christian life. Look at Eph. 1:3-14, which pictures us “in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” He has “made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ.” God wants the eyes of our hearts to be enlightened so that we may know the hope to which he has called us. He wants us to understand his incomparably great power for us who believe. He wants us to be *sitting with him* so that he can prepare us for the great adventure to which He has called us – this adventure called the Christian life. It all starts as we sit

with God, learning from him, knowing who we are in him, understanding our mission.

In Eph. 3:16f Paul prays for us, that out of God's glorious riches he may strengthen us with power through his Spirit in our inner being. He wants us to be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. This will allow us to be all that he wants us to be. All of us are called to begin our spiritual life from that place of rest in God, when by faith we see ourselves seated together with him in the heavens.

Watchman Nee puts it this way: “Most Christians make the mistake of trying to walk in order to be able to sit, but that is the reversal of the true order. Our natural reason says, if we do not walk, how can we ever reach the goal? What can we attain without effort? But Christianity is a queer business! If at the outset we try to do anything, we get nothing; if we seek to attain something, we miss everything. For Christianity begins not with a big DO, but with a big DONE.” God has already blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, and we are invited at the very start of our spiritual life to sit down and enjoy what God *has done* for us, not to set out to attain it for ourselves.

Eph. 2:8 says that by grace we are saved through faith. This salvation is not due to our works; it is the gift of God. We are simply saved by reposing in the Lord Jesus. Nee says man must first enter into God's rest, and only then can he begin to serve the Lord. Let's make sure we are in this

position of *sitting* with God before we try to *walk* in his ways.

A heritage hymn of Thanksgiving

O God of all, Who hears the
prayers of every generation,
Accept the thankfulness we feel
for those who built our nation.
For frontier path with oxen cart,
for circuit rider station,
For simple joy, for vision, for
hope and inspiration.

We praise You for those saints of
old who listened to Your call,
Who weathered storm and
sacrifice to serve both great and
small.
They left a legacy of love; a
church that needs no wall –
But takes your Gospel through the
world and shares the Faith with
all.

Walk city street and foreign shore
with us, Your Church, today.
Lift us to new horizons, show us
Your Will, Your Way.
Be in our thoughts, our hopes, our
dreams, in all we do and say.
Grant us Your benediction now,
O Lord, our God, we pray.
Amen.

– Peggy Ferrell



November 2, 2014

Thank you to all who graciously contributed to the Word of Life Renewal Center in 2014

Halina Ablamowicz	Barbara Geary	Ray and Mary Pilewski*
Bill and June Adam	Patrick and Elizabeth Geary	Fr. David Poulson
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Contributors are current for 2014 as of October 10th.

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Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center
429 East Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA 16504

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Erie, PA
Permit No. 285

Reflections is published monthly by:
Word of Life Catholic
Charismatic Renewal Center
429 E. Grandview Blvd.
Erie PA 16504
(814) 824-1286
e-mail: wolccrc@eriercd.org
website: www.wordoflifecrc.org

Office hours:
M-W-F. 8am – 2:30pm

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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Writers: Liz Geary, Kathy Wilcox, Agnes Helsley, Amy Mosbacher

Typist: Carol Mando

Volume XXVIII Issue No. 11



***"Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen."***

Revelation 7:12, NRSV

November 2014