



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

November 2015

Invisible Made Visible

By Amy Mosbacher

I've just finished listening to Christopher West's *Marriage and the Eucharist*, an excellent explanation of John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. His delivery is concise, humorous and the talk was over before I was ready for it to be. Christopher goes over many points, but I'll only briefly focus on a couple so we can learn more of our design as men and women. The teaching is nothing new; but in today's culture it's nice to re-emphasize it again.

West begins by spelling out the relationship the Blessed Trinity has according to their being. In this case, the Father is the one who loves. He loves Jesus, the Son, totally and without reserve, giving everything to Him. The Son is the one who receives the Father's love and loves Him in return. The love that's shared is so big and real that it overflowed their hearts and is the Holy Spirit.

When God created humans, He created us like Himself. From the beginning God calls us to imitate Him: to be fruitful

and multiply. He sent His Beloved Son into a human family so that Jesus could show us how to love, as the Father has loved Him. From the beginning the Father has loved the Son completely and without reserve or condition, so that's how Jesus loves us. How do we know? Because the night before He died, Jesus took bread in His hands, blessed and broke it saying "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body which will be given up for you." He does the same thing with the cup, proclaiming it the chalice of His Blood. Through the Eucharist Jesus loves us with everything He has.

Then West goes on to compare marriage with the four characteristics of God's love seen in the Bible: free, total, faithful and fruitful. *Free*, because Jesus said of His life in Jn. 10:18, "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord." *Total*, because Jesus told us that all the Father has given Him, Jesus now gives to us, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. In

Matthew 28:20 Jesus told us, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." And even before that, in Hosea 2:19, God said "I will betroth you to me forever." So we know that God is *faithful*. His love for us is also *fruitful*, as Jesus proclaimed in John 10:10c, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

West points out that these same characteristics are turned into the four questions of consent when the bride and groom are at the altar. See if these sound familiar: Have you come here freely? And without any reservation to give yourself to each other in marriage? Do you promise to be faithful until death? Do you promise to receive any children lovingly from God?

These are just some of the considerations that Christopher West gives in his *Marriage and the Eucharist* talk. I hope this little synopsis piques your interest to want to hear his CD for yourself, as he illustrates so clearly God's invisible reality.

Centering In

By Jack Heintzel

Coming Event

Please keep in mind that our annual membership dinner will be held on November 15th this year. All members are invited. See details on page 6 of this issue.

Prison Ministry

We ask you to continue praying for the Word of Life Center's prison ministry. We have had recent articles by Kathy Wilcox regarding the women's state prison at Cambridge Springs, and the good things that God is doing there. God is also working powerfully in the men's prison at Albion. There is a weekly prayer meeting there, and also two Life in the Spirit days each year. Please intercede for the next Albion LIS day on November 14, 2015. The team is led by Dan Zuba.

Prayer Groups

We want to encourage your participation in the various Charismatic prayer groups in the Erie Diocese. Page 4 of this issue shows that there are prayer groups in DuBois, Saint Marys, Meadville, Emporium, Shinglehouse, and several in the Erie area. Pray for the leaders of these groups, that they will hear the voice of the Lord as they lead the groups. Ask God to bring much fruit in these groups. There is great value in assembling to praise the Lord and encouraging one another as we learn to know Him better.

Board of Directors

The following people are currently serving on the Center's Board:

Chair: Fr. David Poulson
Vice Chair: Jack Heintzel
Secretary: T.A. Walkiewicz
Treas: Mary Beth Whitman
Joe Kirsch
Shirley Ireland
Pat Montefiori
Kathy Wilcox
Dan Zuba

Contacting the Center

If you need to contact the Center, you can call 814-824-1286. Even though we don't have anyone there on a full-time basis, volunteers come in at least once a week to check calls and pick up mail. Also use our e-mail connection: wolccrc@eriercd.org.

The Renewal in Erie

Maybe you have wondered about the origins of the Charismatic Renewal in Erie. It's tied to the rejuvenation of the Catholic Renewal. The Renewal took root in some Protestant denominations in the early 1960s. The modern Catholic Renewal began in 1967 in Pittsburgh, PA when a group of Duquesne University students decided to go on retreat. As some of them were praying in the chapel, the Holy Spirit fell on them as on Pentecost. They were filled with the Spirit and began to pray in tongues. They were not expecting this; God just worked sovereignly as He did on the first Pentecost.

About the same time, the Holy Spirit was moving in other university settings such as Notre Dame University and the U. of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I think that both universities still have large Charismatic groups.

One couple who had experienced what came to be called the Duquesne Weekend moved to Erie. The husband, Paul Gray, had been accepted as a theology teacher at (then) Gannon College. Paul and his wife Mary Ann began to hold prayer meetings in their home, and as they witnessed to what God was doing other people began to join them. As the group expanded they called the group the Erie Charismatic Community and then Light of the World Community.

My wife and I got involved in 1971 as the group became larger. More people were coming from Pittsburgh to join the Erie community, including a number of teachers. With the influx of trained teachers, the leaders believed that God was calling them to start a Charismatic school, called Word of God Academy. That happened in 1973, beginning a six-year run. Due to changes in the community structure and ongoing financial difficulties, the school was then closed.

But what God had started continued to bear fruit as other Charismatic prayer groups formed. And the Word of Life Renewal Center, a diocesan coordinating function, began about 1985. God still has a plan for the Renewal in Erie; let's be part of what He is doing.

A Prayer for Our Nation

By Agnes Helsley

“Miracles in American History” by Susie Federer tells the story of many interventions by Almighty God in the history of our country. It also lists the many days of prayer initiated by our Presidents as our country teetered on the edge of oblivion. William Shirley of Massachusetts declared a Day of Prayer and Fasting in October of 1746 as his state was threatened by a French fleet. Governors also felt it necessary to call citizens to prayer and fasting.

From the father of our country, George Washington, to Richard Nixon in 1970 requests for prayer made by national leaders were common. Not so much lately! General MacArthur addressed the Salvation Army on December 12, 1951 thusly: “History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster.”

In this month of November as we express our gratitude to our God for the many blessings of America let’s make it a point to pray daily and fervently for our nation as we see the times growing more and more perilous. The author of *Miracles in American History* offers us this prayer as a guideline: “Our Dear Heavenly Father, in Jesus’ name we come humbly before You and ask Your forgiveness for our sins and the sins of our nation. We acknowledge that You are Lord of lords, King of kings, the One True God. We ask that you touch the hearts of our leaders to turn to You and do Your will. We ask that they come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior

and seek to follow Your Word. We ask that You give us a President who will serve You, uphold Your commandments and love and protect Your people, Help us to love our enemies. We pray for the Senate, Congress, Judges and all elected officials at the Federal, state, county and city levels. May they hear Your voice and give You their lives in service to America, one nation under God. May they not follow their own political ambitions but serve out of love for their fellow man. Grant us leaders who respect life at all stages. Protect our country from terrorists and those who plot evil. Give charge to your angels to protect us from all harm. Defend Israel and we pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Jesus, thank you for dying and shedding your blood to cleanse us of our sins and deliver us from the evil one. We cover this entire country with the blood of Jesus. Please strengthen us to be the heroes of America today.”

A Meditation

This is a meditation by Catherine Marshall from *Moments that Matter*:

With God, there is only the infinite NOW. Therefore, by faith we must grasp the fact that all the blessings we shall ever need are already deposited in the Treasury of Heaven.

Money in any checking account will stay right there until the owner cashes a check *in the present*. Even so, we shall receive God’s blessings only as we claim them one by one *in the present*. Faith in the future tense is hope – not faith. A sure sign that our hope has passed into faith is when we stop begging God and begin

thanking Him for the answer to our prayer.

Help for Our Prayer Life

One way of recalling the mind easily during prayer and of keeping it more tranquil is not to let your mind race during the day, but to hold it close to the presence of God. Being in the habit of coming back to Him from time to time, you will find it easy to remain peaceful during your prayer time, or at least to bring your mind back from distraction.

Brother Lawrence

Come, Holy Spirit, divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, truly divine and truly human, living and reigning with you and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas

Prayer grows from an ear, mind, and tongue that have lived in silence with God, for in the silence of the heart God speaks.

Bl. Teresa of Calcutta

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

Requested by

No memorial gifts this month

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.

True maturity as a Christian is not a matter of increased independence from God but a deeper dependence on Him.

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 8th & 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

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.

Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

At 3:00 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



Just Believe & Receive

By Kathy Wilcox

Those of us in prison ministry made the decision to get involved because the Lord called us, and because we realized that it is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. But as our Lord always does, He has so much more in mind when we listen and do what he asks.

We learned at our first meeting that we were the ones being blessed and that we were not doing anything but showing up for God's event! It is also clear that our Lord wants us to be his witnesses to tell the world what He is doing!

Last month, the teaching was on Faith, and during sharing time, one of our ladies had a Word of Knowledge (we had not even had the teaching on it) that another person was being healed of pain in her hip. We started to move on to the next person and she said "Wait! Will whoever was healed please stand up and walk?" Another woman stood, and smiling said "It's me, it's me! And the pain is gone!" When I saw her this month, she glowingly told me that the pain is still gone.

By the time we got to sharing time this month, there were multiple faith events to report. One young woman shared that she no longer responds in anger when verbally attacked, and is able to be at peace no matter what is going on around her. (Keep in mind that 4 women are living in old

college dorm rooms that were small with two people in them.)

Another young lady shared that she hated and cursed the police officer who arrested her. When she got to prison she felt that she did not belong there because there was so much evil around her. She started to pray and God showed her that she was a sinner and no better than the other inmates. She is now praising God that he allowed her sinful ways to result in incarceration and that because of it, she is now a Christian.

There are many more stories to tell, but the point is that when people of Faith come together to pray, the Holy Spirit comes and blesses, and heals, and teaches and touches hearts, bodies and minds. The scripture tells us that "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18: 19-20

If you are not regularly attending a prayer meeting, you might want to seek out one and start attending. Remember, it is the Lord's event; all you need to do is show up and believe and you will be blessed and blessed and blessed!

Do We Need to Get More Involved in Spiritual Warfare?

By Jack Heintzel

There was a time, in my early days in the Catholic Renewal, when I and other Charismatics were involved with a deliverance ministry. I am looking at a book called *Deliverance From Evil Spirits*, by Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, and Randall Cirner. This is a book about deliverance by two Catholics. Fr. Scanlan was formerly president of the Franciscan University at Steubenville, OH. I have another book by the same name by Francis MacNutt, another Catholic. This is called a practical manual for healing and deliverance.

These days I hear very little about this subject, and I wonder why. I am sure the devil has not stopped oppressing people. What should we be doing about this?

I ask this because I have read about deliverance being done by Protestant missionaries in Africa. An article by Dick Eastman in *Every Home Magazine* tells about his missionaries confronting fierce and relentless demonic powers in Zimbabwe. They spent many hours praying and fasting before going into action and much time evangelizing. But they got results! Here is what one village leader said to his tribe: "I have called you here tonight as the headman of

(Cont. on page 6)

The Church as a Field Hospital: The Pope in Philadelphia

By Amy Dalessandro

I was fortunate to be able to be part of the pilgrimage to Philadelphia to see Pope Francis on September 25-28, 2015. On Friday, although it had been sunny all day, there was a beautiful rainbow in the sky! I believe it was a sign of God's blessing in preparation for the Pope coming to the U.S. On the bus ride home on Monday we also saw a double rainbow somewhere near Warren, PA. It was a beautiful sign of God's providence and protection.

The Pope's words about the "field hospital" came into my mind during the Consecration at the Papal Mass on 9/27: "The thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds...and you have to start from the ground up."

His quote on the field hospital brought to mind this Bible verse: "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good

is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:15-17)."

We keep hearing of more actions Pope Francis is taking in large and small ways to aid the poor, for example, ordering showers to be built for the homeless to use in St. Peter's Square. His humility and leadership should not only inspire us but give us the desire to carry out the duty of caring for the less fortunate.

In the crowd of nearly one million people that Sunday, I couldn't help thinking that we are the universal church, and what if all of us brought one person to Jesus? Or offered up the uncomfortable moments of our pilgrimage for a soul who needs the Jesus the most?

There is a great need for evangelization in the U.S. and the whole world. How much do we evangelize to ourselves; to other Catholics who have already heard the Word and live by it, instead of focusing on reaching out to those who don't know Jesus? We should ask the Holy Spirit for His help in bringing Jesus to others who don't know Him and His love.

A lot of people who aren't even religious have said that they like Pope Francis; he is taking action to help the poor, and encourages interfaith dialogue instead of focusing on our differences. Let's follow his example as the Vicar of Christ on earth by taking steps toward where God wants us to be. No one grows spiritually by staying comfortable in their faith. Will you answer our Holy Father's call?

The Center will be having its annual membership dinner on Sunday, November 15 at St. Mark Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

- Time 2:30 to 5:00 pm.
- Park in back of the building and enter by the rear door.
- Buffet dinner (ham) courtesy of the WOL Center.
- Call T.A. Walkiewicz at 814-833-9717 for information or reservation by Nov. 6.

As our by-laws state, a member is any person who (1) supports the Center on a yearly basis by monetary gifts or pledges, (b) is the liaison to the Bishop, or (c) is a member of the Board of Directors. There will be a presentation of the vision for 2016. The year-end financial statement for 2015 will also be presented.

Spiritual Warfare (continued)

this village to tell you that for all these years I've been leading you wrong. I believe I've found the light – I have found God. From now on, no one is to come to me with issues from spirit mediums again. I have decided to follow Christ and want you to follow Him too." Eastman says that the key to defeating the devil and overcoming sickness is prayer. We also must know how to carry out healing and deliverance ministries. I hope that many of us will get serious about these ministries. We can be "home missionaries" as Jesus was in Palestine. Maybe we need to hear more about this topic. What do you think?

Thank you to all who graciously contributed to the Word of Life Renewal Center in 2015

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Cookeville, TN

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***Contributors are current for
2015 as of October 13th.***

***Please consider donating if
you haven't been doing so.***

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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.

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

Volume XXIX Issue No. 11

It pleased God to make it easy for us to be saved.
God didn't attach salvation to knowledge or
intelligence or wealth, nor to long experience or
rare gifts that are not given to all. God attached it to
something within the reach of everyone,
absolutely everyone. Jesus attaches salvation to
humility, to the act of making yourself little.
That is all that it takes to win heaven.

-Bl. Charles de Foucauld

NOVEMBER 2015