



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

October 2013

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

Bless and extol His name

By Amy Mosbacher

“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering...”

Ps.96:7-8

At the risk of sounding pushy, let me say: go find a Bible. Open it to Tobit 12:6-10. The passage is too long to write out here, so you would have to read it. In it the angel Raphael describes how we should make known the deeds of God, and that almsgiving and righteousness are better than prayer or fasting. Other than material goods given for charity, what are the alms that we give to God directly? Praise and glory! Raphael states plainly that we should acknowledge all the good things He’s done for us, extolling His name in song. We have a duty, an obligation to praise God and give Him honor. Some might ask, “Why, what does it matter? I can understand praying when we need something or when our heart aches and we have no one else to open up to, but what’s the point of praise?” Consider that praise and gratitude are important for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is that it keeps us humble. So why be humble? One glance at society today will tell us why.

First, remember what prayer in biblical times was like. Most Old and New Testament figures

started out their prayer with praise, recounting good deeds God has done throughout history. The titles used to address God told of His characteristics and reminded people of their relationship to Him. Only after stating their gratitude did they make a petition. In giving God praise, worship, intercession, petition and thanksgiving, people were reminded of the divine power of God and His fidelity to His people. They also prayed in contrition, admitting when they had turned away and thus drawing His discipline. (Keep reading in Tobit chapter 13.) They knew if they humbled themselves and repented, God would have mercy.

Now consider how we pray today. How many of us begin our prayer by praising God and reminding Him (and ourselves) of what He’s done for us? Or do we just call the blessings coincidences and good luck? Do we take away honor that rightfully belongs to God by dismissing it and attributing it to other things? In failing to recognize the intervention and greatness of God, we’re likely to forget that there’s someone greater than us out there. We might pridefully think that we can create laws that toy with life

and death because we answer to no one but ourselves; so then when disaster comes we go running to Him, demanding to know how He could let some accident happen. We don’t recognize His discipline for what it is and therefore don’t repent. Instead we go farther away from Him and become more desperate, all the while considering ourselves an enlightened and advanced society. We have forgotten Who made us and to Whom we’re responsible, all because we have forgotten to give God praise and glory. If we want to “find” ourselves, we need to get back to the basics. Blessed be God forever!



**“BE EXALTED,
O LORD,
—in your—
STRENGTH!
WE WILL SING
& PRAISE
—your—
POWER.”**
PSALM 21:13, nrsv

Centering in

By Liz Geary

- **Prayer brunch**

The 2013 fall prayer brunch is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th. We are very blessed to have Dan Zuba as the speaker for this brunch. Dan will be witnessing to his experience with prison ministry and what the Lord has been doing with that ministry recently. Jim Dzuricky will bless us with music ministry, and April Blum will again provide a delicious breakfast for us. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details and a registration form. Your timely registration would be greatly appreciated for planning purposes. I look forward to seeing you at the last prayer brunch for 2013.

- **Volunteer dinner**

For those of you expecting your invitation to the volunteer appreciation dinner to arrive in your mailbox soon, you will need to wait a little longer for the invitation. The Center is going to try something new this year regarding both the volunteer appreciation dinner and the membership dinner. They are going to be combined into one dinner and will be held in April of 2014. More details will be announced in 2014. I look forward to seeing a large turnout in April.

- **Facebook and Twitter**

You can now find the Word of Life Renewal Center on Facebook! The Center can be found at Word of Life Center (look for Erie, PA). Updates will include photos, event information, and links to videos and web pages, along with postings regarding activities happening at the Center and uplifting spiritual material. If you could “like” the Word of Life Center page, it would be greatly appreciated. “Liking” the page will enable me to do more fun things on the page! Don’t forget to look the Center up on Twitter as well. You can find us at WordofLifeCent1. My goal is to post updates and tweets on both accounts three to four times per week. If you have any questions or are having any difficulty finding the Center on Facebook or Twitter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Center and I will do what I can to walk you along.

- **Memorials**

I would like to remind everyone that memorial contributions can be sent to the Center. Please call or e-mail the Center directly to receive memorial packets. Memorials and prayer intentions are prayed for every hour by the Center staff. All memorials are also printed monthly in *Reflections*. The Center has seen a decline in

the number of memorials being sent in. I would ask that you prayerfully consider remembering your family and friends with this loving gesture.

- **Please pray for the Word of Life Center**

Please consider joining together for a day of fasting and prayer each month that God’s will for the Center and the charismatic renewal in the Erie Diocese be fulfilled. The *second Thursday* of every month will be reserved for this intention. The next two dates are October 10th and November 14th. If you cannot join me on these days, I ask that you consider choosing another day during the month to fast and pray for these intentions. Thank you so much for joining with us to ask for God’s blessings on the Center and the Charismatic Renewal.

- **National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference**

Please save the date for the National Leaders’ and Ministries Conference for 2014. The dates are November 7th-9th and the conference will be held in Pittsburgh. Anyone involved with the Charismatic Renewal or seeking growth in the Spirit is invited to attend. More details will be in upcoming editions of *Reflections*.

Some keys to discipleship

By Jack Heintzel

"...anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing."

John 14:12

There are a number of keys to being a good, effective disciple of Jesus Christ. We are called to do what Jesus did, but we need to understand how to be good disciples. We want to be more like our Master and His early followers. What qualities do we need?

Joyce Meyer has some interesting comments on Hebrews 4:3, which talks about *entering into God's rest*. To be good disciples we must be able to experience His rest. Experiencing His rest is one way we can tell whether we are really *in* faith, or whether we are just trying to *have* faith. If we truly enter into the realm of faith, we enter into His rest. Rest, in this sense, is freedom from excessive reasoning, struggle, fear, inner turmoil, worry, and frustration. We can rest in God because we know He will take care of us and meet our needs. We should not try to work to do what only God can do. This is a rest of the soul where the mind, will, and emotions are at peace with God.

We also need *courage* and *endurance*. Jesus showed great courage as He faced His passion and death on the cross. Also look at St. Paul, who wrote about his many trials in 2 Cor. 6:3-10. He also had great *zeal* for his mission. Serving Christ was his life. He endured; he never quit. Oswald Chambers said that we need "spiritual grit" to overcome the world.

Closely related to these

characteristics is *toughness*. I have just finished reading a baseball book entitled *The Summer of '49*. This describes the rigorous 1949 pennant race between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees. The Yankees won the American League championship on the last day of the season by beating the Red Sox. The account by David Halberstam gives us a reason as to why they won: "The Yankees had a tradition of playing in big games and winning. Mental toughness was enforced by the team leaders, and a succession of leadership had been established from generation to generation. The one word used by (Tommy) Henrich was *tough*. They pushed themselves and each other. It was as if everything they did advertised that this is a serious business." The Yankees did not necessarily have the best players, but they won championships more often.

I thought about our role as disciples of Christ. What is our attitude toward the mission God has given us to spread the gospel? Are we expecting to be victorious in Christ? Do we see this as a serious business? Are we willing to push ourselves and others as necessary, and form new disciples? Are we willing to stand up to persecution and hardship as Jesus did? Are we as determined as Paul was to be like Jesus? Are we willing to pray hard for the task of spreading the Gospel?

These are questions I have to ask myself. I invite you to join me in this. We need faith, courage, patient endurance, zeal, and

mental toughness. Let's move in the power of the Holy Spirit to act and intercede for victory.

No substitute

The Christian community plays an important role in the life of discipleship because this community is nothing less than the body of Christ in the world today. It is among brothers and sisters in faith that we:

- experience the presence of Jesus Christ, living and incarnate;
- come together for worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn, through the successes and failures around us, what it means to live a life of discipleship.

"There is no substitute for living around other Christians," write Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon of Duke Divinity School. A "primary way of learning to be disciples is by being in contact with others who are disciples" (*Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony*). We grow in discipleship as we strive with others to hear God's Word, feed the hungry, welcome strangers and love one another.

--Homiletics



Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace
2401 W. 38th St. 7:30PM
Wednesday October 2

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

Elizabeth "Libby" Hosu
Janet Bindseil
Twyla & John Kernic
Jacki Fontecchio

Don Sheldon
John Rudolph
Joseph Fedorko
Marilyn Adams

Requested by

Vincent and Joie Martin
Carol Mando
Shelly Rudolph
Dan and Irene Zuba
T. A. Walkiewicz
Sr. Gerry Olon and Sr. Colette Palmer
Dan and Irene Zuba
T. A. Walkiewicz
Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil
Sr. Marie Celeste Bindseil

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.

**"The bitterest tears shed over graves are
for words left unsaid and for deeds left undone."**

--Harriet Beecher Stowe

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
Oct. 6,13,20,27

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM
West 8th & Powell Ave.
Jack Heintzel 838-1325
Oct. 6,13,20,27

† 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
Oct. 7,14,21,28

Leopold Center

1017 West 8th St.
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary
At 3:00PM (before Mass)
Oct. 7,14,21,28
(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
Oct. 14,28

† Tuesday:

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave. 7:00PM
Pat Montefiori 823-3968
Oct. 1,8,15,22,29

Chosen Prayer Group

St. Theresa Church,
Shinglehouse, PA 10AM - 12Noon
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519
Oct. 1,8,15,22,29

† Wednesday:

St. Mark's Prayer Group

St. Mark Church 7:00PM
Religious Education Center
Emporium, PA
Oct. 2,9,16,23,30

† Thursday:

St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Prayer Meeting

7:00PM
139 W. 24th St. – Upstairs in Center
Gene Kobal (814) 392-1162
Oct. 3,10,17,24,31 (Call first)

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00PM
Bill Adam 899-9222
Oct. 3,10,17,24,31

Wildfire Prayer Meeting

2nd Thursday of month 7:00 PM
5031 W. Ridge Rd..
S.S.J. Living Center
Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165
Oct. 10

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for
Location 7:30PM
Bob Zimmer 868-5344
Oct. 4,11,18,25

The prime objective of a life well lived

By Agnes D. Helsley

According to John Calvin, our first duty as Christians is to make the invisible God and His kingdom visible. God is attempting to reveal Himself through the body of Christ. Actually, God's reputation is staked on how we His people affect every aspect of our lives following the directives of His Word. In 1 Peter 2:9 we are called a chosen race, called to be priests, a holy nation.

Carmen Pate writes for Truth in Action Ministries (formerly known as Coral Ridge Ministries, the late Dr. D. James Kennedy's ministry). She tells us that Christians are to serve as God's credentials, living proof that He is Lord of all. The invisible God is to be seen in you and me. Jesus tells us how this can be accomplished in Mark 12:29-31: "...Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second (commandment) is this, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Pate's comments on finding the ability to carry out these two commandments are very insightful. "The abundant Christian life is not our living FOR Christ – but Christ living THROUGH us. Our body becomes His suit of clothes so that He loves through us, worships through us, prays through us, and fulfills our calling through us. He does this through the Spirit, whom Jesus portrayed as "rivers of living water" flowing

from the heart of everyone believing in Him."

It boils down to our personal worldview. Do we view the world through the lens of the Bible? Are we conscious of the need to be concerned for the spiritual wellbeing of our fellow sojourners? We find the power to be God's ambassadors in the Holy Spirit who indwells us. 1 John 4:13 assures us "We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." Verse 4 of that chapter is the clincher: "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them" (the world). Thank You, Father, for the empowerment of the Spirit and the victory won for us by Jesus, Your Son!

The Goodwill man

In the early years of the 20th century, a pastor in Boston had a burning passion to help the poor, those who were handicapped, and immigrants who found it difficult to adjust to American practices. With steadfast prayer and God's hand guiding him along, the Rev. Edgar James Helms started Goodwill Industries.

Today it is a widespread movement dedicated "to help the helpless to help themselves." It continues to help the handicapped, the jobless and the poor.

Before he died in 1943, Helms wrote the following statement:

"I, Edgar James Helms, have often been referred to as the founder of Goodwill Industries. This is not strictly true. The originator of Goodwill Industries was the Master of men, Who spoke from a Galilean hillside 1900 years ago and commanded His disciples to 'gather up the fragments that nothing be lost.'

"We, his disciples, are commanded to 'Go thou and do likewise.' We receive our marching orders from Him, who commanded us to 'seek and save the lost.' He expects us to literally, 'Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick and in prison.'"

Down through the years, Goodwill has existed for service, not financial profits – all because of the Man from Galilee and Edgar Helms, his servant.

– Quote from Beatrice Plumb, *The Goodwill Man*

Life in the Spirit Seminar

The Son of God Prayer Group will be presenting a Life in the Spirit Seminar, "Awaken the Holy Spirit," at Holy Rosary church, 28th and East Avenue beginning October 8, 2013 and running for consecutive Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

This seminar will help you to experience the Holy Spirit more powerfully in your life. It can help you to have a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. It can renew your prayer life and open the Scriptures to a greater understanding for you. It is open to all faith denominations. Please try to come.

For information or registration please call Gerry 452-2499 or Patty 823-3968 or visit www.sonofgodprayergroup.webs.com

Life in the Spirit weekend for college students

By Liz Geary

What an answer to all of our prayers! The campus ministry program at Penn State Behrend will be hosting a Life in the Spirit retreat weekend for college students at St. Joe's community Center from November 1-3, 2013. The title for the retreat is "**All Things New.**" Fr. John Miller and Fr. Jason Feigh will be assisting a team of college students for the weekend. Behrend campus ministry coordinator Bonnie Pratt and I have been working on this project since about February.

The Word of Life Center has volunteered to be in a support role for the weekend, and this is where your help is vitally needed if the weekend is to be a success. We have a few areas that we, as the "seasoned" Charismatics, are in charge of. The first, as always, is prayer. Please pray that God continues to pave the way for the success of this weekend. Please also pray for all of those participating in the weekend that God will work in them in a mighty way.

Since the retreat is taking place at St. Joe's, I was hoping that the Center might be able to have around-the-clock prayer at the adoration chapel for the special intention of the retreat. If you would like to sign up for a time slot, please contact me at the Center directly.

The next thing that we will be in charge of is providing snacks for the weekend for a bunch of hungry college students. The main meals are being catered by friend of the Center, April Blum, but as most of us know, young people on a retreat weekend will

require yummy snacks. We don't have any registration numbers yet, but we will need to be prepared. I will be accepting donations of food, drinks, cups, plates, napkins, and plastic silverware at the Center prior to the retreat. Monetary donations for this purpose can also be sent to the Center. Please write "Behrend" in the memo line of your check.

We are also in need of donations to cover the cost of the weekend. As you can imagine, college students do not have much in the way of money, and there are many costs involved with putting on a weekend of this magnitude. Anything that you can give to defray the costs for the students would be greatly appreciated. **God is working in a mighty way right now! I truly believe that there is nothing more important in evangelization than to help lift up the next generation.**

Lastly, please pray for me as I spend the weekend with these young people. I will be the "seasoned" person on the weekend. Please pray that God will grant me the strength needed to do His work. Please also pray that He will watch over my family while I am away from them.

I know that I can count on all of you. We have been praying for the raising up of the new generation, and God is answering our prayers!

If you have any questions, or would like further information on the "**All Things New**" college student retreat, please call me at the Center directly.

Our mind's storehouse

Benjamin Weir, a missionary in the Middle East, was forcefully taken by terrorists who placed him in solitary confinement in an "out of the way" room. With a blindfold over his eyes, he didn't know where he was, had no one with whom to talk and had no contact with the outside world. He suffered true isolation. What was he to do? What could he do?

In a way, all he had was a beating heart and a mind free to think. To keep from being bored, he tapped into the information stored in his head. Many months later, after being freed, he said, "I called up my memory bank, things that were stored in my mind." He recalled Scripture passages he had learned years before. He thought of words from some of Shakespeare's works. He pondered the words of hymns and other musical pieces. He thought about his family, his wife and his friends. He remembered the work he loved. He thought about how the grace of God had ministered to him throughout his life.

When he was able to talk about the experience, he said that under such circumstances, "Whatever is in your mind is what you have to draw on."

Does that say anything to us about what we should let into our minds? Shouldn't we store information that is spiritually helpful? Pure thoughts. Thoughts about the good and great things of life. Thoughts about the life of Christ and his saving grace.

Prayer Brunch

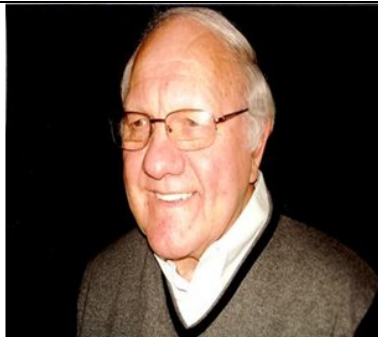
Sponsored by:
Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

Held at
St. Joseph Bread of Life
Community Center
139 West 24th Street,
Erie PA

- Fellowship
- Brunch
- Praise & Worship
- Talk
- Prayer for personal needs

Brunch tickets: \$8.00
Must accompany reservation.
A free will offering will be
taken to benefit Word of Life
Center ministries.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2013
9:30AM—NOON



Dan Zuba

Our featured speaker for the prayer brunch is Dan Zuba. Dan is very active at the men's prison in Albion and will give testimony, insights, and updates on the Life in the Spirit Seminars and bi-weekly prayer meetings being held there.

In addition to the prison ministry, Dan is also involved with PAC (Pornography Accountability Council); he is a member of the Son of God prayer group and is a Eucharistic Minister at St. James Church. Dan is married and he and his wife, Irene, are the parents of two daughters, Jennifer and Natalie. They also have seven grandchildren.

The topic of Dan's talk is "Prison Ministry — Called by Faith." The Lord is blessing this ministry in a mighty way, and you won't want to miss any of Dan's testimony. So get your reservations in soon.

Please keep top portion for future reference

Prayer Brunch Registration
Saturday, October 26, 2013

No. of registrations at \$8.00 _____

Deadline for registration is
October 21, 2013

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone No. _____

Make checks payable to Word of Life Center and send to:
Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514

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website: www.wordoflifecrc.org

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.

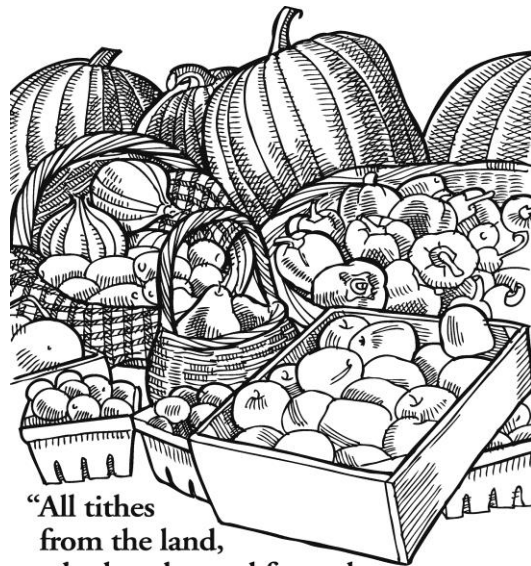
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Volume XXVII

Issue No. 10



“All tithes
from the land,
whether the seed from the
ground or the fruit from the tree,
are the LORD’s; they are holy
to the LORD.” Leviticus 27:30, NRSV

October 2013