



# Reflections

Word of Life  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

October 2015

## Those Prison Walls

By Kathy Wilcox

Working in prison ministry is enlightening in many ways. It is giving me insights that are beneficial to my life outside the prison as well.

As we were sharing, a new young lady in SCI-Cambridge Springs was explaining that she was wrongfully incarcerated. She was working fervently in the law library to find a resolution to her problems. Sitting next to her was a strong Christian believer who smiled and said, "You must first come to terms with your relationship to Christ, and bring yourself under His authority. You will not get out of prison until God decides it is time."

Wow! God is in charge, and we must surrender to Him – his authority surpasses all. Romans 13:1-2 tells us that "everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Therefore, he who rebels against the authority is

rebellling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

So do you have a supervisor who is driving you crazy? Pray, pray and pray for the grace to accept and deal with your situation. Don't agree with your church pastor? Guess what -- God wants you to accept the authority He has placed over you. That does not mean that we should not pray for those in authority over us. Indeed, 1 Timothy 2:2 tells us that we should pray "for kings and all who are in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

And what about prison walls? If we look at our own lives, we may see that we have walls around us as well. Walls can be made of many things. There are addictions – maybe to alcohol, drugs, or prescription drugs -- that imprison us. Food, material things, the internet, and bad relationships also can be walls that keep us captive and separated from God. These are

walls of our own making, coming from our sin natures; and only by confessing our sins and surrendering these sins and our lives to God's authority will they be removed from our lives.

Physical illness may seem like a prison. A person once confronted Saint Padre Pio and asked why God had not healed his relative who had cerebral palsy? Saint Pio patiently explained that God knew the state of the young man's soul and also his weaknesses. He explained that by allowing the physical condition that confined the young man to his bed, God was protecting his soul from destruction. This man in good health would easily succumb to the temptations of the world, and would be at risk of eternal damnation.

We need to look beyond our immediate situations and realize that for God to work in our lives we must completely surrender everything to him. Only then will we be really free.

## **Centering In**

By Jack Heintzel

### **Day of Renewal**

Don't forget our Day of Renewal on October 17<sup>th</sup> at St Joseph / Bread of Life Community Center. The Bishop's liaison to the Renewal, Fr. David Poulson, will be the speaker. There is more information on page 7 of this issue.

### **Continuing Needs**

- Please continue to pray for the needs of the Center. And consider fasting in support of your prayers.
- If you can help in setting up coming events, please call T. A. Walkiewicz at 833-9717. We need your help.
- If you are available to help at the Center's office, even part time, please call T. A. or Jack Heintzel (838-1325)

### **Prison Ministry**

The WOLC team at the men's state prison at Albion is planning a Life in the Spirit retreat on Nov. 14, 2015. Please intercede for a good response from the inmates who attend. The weekly prayer meetings continue to bear fruit. Dan Zuba is the team leader.

### **National Renewal**

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal, begun in 1967, is planning for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017. It's hard for me to believe I have been involved since 1971. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit as a member of Light of the World Community, and I am grateful for what God has done in me.

## **Holy Spirit Novena Prayer**

**Resp: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.**

Come among us as wind and fire, and ignite our lives with renewed faith. Resp.

Help us grow in the life of grace and reflect your presence in our lives. Resp.

Give us courage and faith to use our gifts in the service of the church and your people. Resp.

Enable our parishes, our families, and our communities to respond to the challenge of the Gospel. Resp.

Bless the young, support the old, sustain all those who minister to your people. Resp.

Be the wind and fire that brings new life to your church and open our minds and hearts to your presence among us. Resp.

May our prayer help us embrace the call You give us to be holy people in the service of God and one another

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Amen.**

*Anonymous source*

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"In order to hear the voice of God, one has to have silence in one's soul and to keep silence; not a gloomy silence, but an interior silence; that is to say, recollection in God."

*- St. Faustina Kowalska*

## **Prayer and Quiet Time**

Some hints for prayer time:

1. TIME: Have specific time each day that you plan to meet and commune with Him.
2. PLACE: Have a specific place to meet Him each day: a quiet place, away from interruptions.
3. BEGIN BY WAITING UPON THE LORD: "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him." Psalm 37:7
4. ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PRESENCE: And praise Him for it.
5. READ HIS WORD: Have a definite plan. Read a chapter or two chapters each day.
6. MEDITATE: On every verse. What new thing does the verse say about God. What sin is there to confess.
7. PRAY AS YOU MEDITATE: If there is a sin to confess, then confess it. If there is a command to obey, then obey it. Claim the promises of God.
8. CONTINUE TO PRAY: Bring your requests to the Lord. Pray for others, your pastor, your church, the lost, by name.
9. RECORD: Write down in a notebook the lessons that the Lord has taught you. This gives you a book to remind you of the lessons you have learned. Write every one down. "Today I learned that \_\_\_\_\_."
10. SHARE: There is a blessing in sharing. Now that you have learned something new from the Lord in this quiet hour, share with someone what you have learned. *Anon.*

## How God Changes Us

By Agnes D. Helsley

I love Scripture, I am sure most of our readers are lovers of the Word. "The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12)." I am always hard pressed to name a favorite. It was with delight I learned that my pick of the current plethora of presidential candidates chose to share Prov. 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Great rule for life!

My signature scripture is Jeremiah 15:16. I was in my late 30's (lo, those many years ago!) when I became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. I wished that it would be possible to eat the Word to internalize it; finding the following scripture was really neat! "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name O Lord God Almighty." Wow! The prophet Jeremiah had a similar urge: "Eat the Word."

Lately though 2 Cor 3:18 this has been appearing often: "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." It would be nice if God could just sprinkle us with

holiness so the transition would be painless, but that is not to be. That transformation involves some sanding to produce the mirrored surface to reflect God's image! God might use some pretty coarse sandpaper to remove layers of stubborn pride. Daily relationship problems, hurt feelings, and selfishness all cloud the mirror. Forgiveness is an excellent sandpaper to produce the mirrored surface required.

George Washington prayed "Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ." This is noted in his diary found at Mt. Vernon. The desired result of 2 Cor 3:18!

As we await the coming of King Jesus let us all be mindful of the need to co-operate with God's grace and His plan to form us into the image of His Son. Spirit of the living God, fall on us!

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### August Prayer Brunch: "Raised with Love"

By Kathy Wilcox

The Word of Life Prayer Brunch, held August 22, was a beautiful morning of praise, fellowship, teaching and sharing. Deacon Jerry Peterson, assigned to Saint Julia Church in Erie, has been a Deacon since 2001. He shared his story of being raised in a home with loving parents, who loved him unconditionally and taught him values and his Catholic faith. His uncle's humor (Msgr. James Peterson) peppered his presentation as he shared his childhood story and

about how he was blessed to find and marry his beautiful wife, Joan. While Deacon Peterson's ministry is to those in the hospital and prison he also counsels young people to pray for their future spouse. He offered us his three-point plan for choosing a spouse, but cautioned that for the prayer to work, the petitioner must be in a state of grace, and then pray:

1. that our Lord find you a spouse who brings you closer to God,
2. that our Lord find you a spouse who is accepted by and comfortable with your family,
3. that our Lord find you a spouse with whom you are at peace, and that any and all obstacles to marriage will be overcome.

Deacon Peterson also shared some stories about his prison ministry and offered a poignant example of God's forgiveness and how an inmate responded to God's grace and his own sinfulness. The young man said that even though he confesses his sins, and received forgiveness, he sometimes sins again. He said that God's mercy has shown him that it is important to not look back at his past, and to make a decision: "From where I fall, I will move on," always keeping his eyes on Christ. Good advice!

Thank you Deacon Peterson! Thank you "Jackie & Friends" for the beautiful praise and worship, and thank you, Lord, for releasing your power and gifts; it was a Spirit filled morning!

**Healing Mass**

**Our Lady of Peace Church**

2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> 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.

“Lord, grant us to believe in the heart, to confess with the mouth, to confirm with works that the covenant of God is in our flesh, so that others, seeing our good works, might magnify our Father who is in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom is glory for ever and ever.”

• *Origen*

**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 8<sup>th</sup> & 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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



## **In Defense of Marriage**

By Amy Mosbacher

"For the sake of civility, we're going to have to agree to disagree." So ended a conversation about LGBT (lesbian/gay/bi-sexual/trans-gender) rights and marriage with someone close to me. These are challenging times for we who remain faithful to Church teaching. I didn't necessarily want to touch this topic in an article, but the idea won't let me alone (perhaps it's the Holy Spirit!).

Let me first say that Jesus calls us to love all people and show them the dignity they have as human beings. That doesn't mean we have to love or approve of what they do. I have had and do have several friends who fall into the LGBT category. I grew up with these people and we are still friends even though they know how I feel about the matter. However, with society's changing attitudes and new laws, we Catholics face increasing criticism about our stand.

Disorder in the world has existed since the Fall of Adam and Eve. From our Jewish roots to our modern Catholic Church, we've upheld God's law for marriage between one man and one woman because it is sustainable and a reflection of our Trinitarian God. When Noah and his family were saved from the flood, God showed them a rainbow, a sign of the covenant between Himself and the family that the blessing of marriage wasn't

drowned with everything else. Now see how the devil is trying to appear as an angel of light, convincing people that homosexuality is good and even usurping the sign of the rainbow in the LGBT freedom flag. Such a war is being waged and so many are falling to the devil's designs! This is why, out of love, I can't remain quiet when so many souls are in danger. Yes, it means enduring name-calling, being told the Church still lives in the dark ages, being told I'm critical, judgmental, intolerant and more. But I can't just let society's whims roll over and crush me. This is why we need to pray so very much, so that Jesus can keep us close to the Truth and lead us in our dealings with friends, family and neighbors. The Holy Spirit will guide us in what to say, and help us to be truly loving. So even if we can't accept we shouldn't be condemning in our words and actions. I pray that they will at least understand why the Church can't bless an action it sees as wrong.

Prayers are desperately needed for the Synod on the Family coming up in Philadelphia in September. See how this spiritual war is taking place? The devil wins one with LGBT "marriage," and the Church counters with yet another statement on the importance of marriage and the family a couple months later. But we must pray so as to not lose hope, and then to love, as challenging as it is. Our Father has us in His hands, and I trust

that He will save as many people as possible

*Reference:*

"We call upon (Catholic faithful) to stand against all attacks on marriage and to stand up for the meaning, dignity, and sanctity of marriage and the family."

From *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, a Pastoral Letter of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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## **Ballroom Dancing and Faith**

By Amy Dalessandro

I'm inviting you to read a book by Amy Dalessandro, who is affiliated with the Word of Life Center. Amy has been involved in the Charismatic Renewal in Erie since 2013. This ballroom-dancer-turned author volunteers as part of the Beloved Daughters prayer group held monthly at the Cambridge Springs women's prison; she also helps with the Life in the Spirit retreats there. She is a social worker and a screenwriter.

Amy has been engaged in writing since age 7. Now she has written her first fiction book, *Step 2, 3, 4*, about competitive ballroom dancing and a man's faith. Its primary focus is on how his faith helps him overcome a tragic loss in his life, and helps overcome fear when he is called to face something he never dreamed would happen to him. The reviews I have seen are very good. I am ready to start reading my own copy. You can get one on Amazon.com.

## Testimony: A Godly Encounter

By Lynn McIntire

Early in September 2015 I had an unexpected encounter. Most Sundays after early Mass, with my cushion, coffee and donut, I find a quiet shaded area of the Gate of Heaven Cemetery. I sit on a bench to say a rosary, read Scripture and pray (especially for all who are buried there).

At times a certain middle-aged man would arrive to visit his sister's grave, where he had installed a solar light "so she wouldn't be in the dark," he said. We usually only exchange "Good mornings," but this time he came over to me and started talking on and on until I realized he was reaching out for "something." He said he wasn't sure there is an afterlife, wasn't sure about a higher power, didn't know the rosary, etc. He said his mom was Catholic and his dad was not, and he was moving to California in a few weeks to live with his only relative. After listening a while, I talked about how beautiful the Catholic faith is and he accepted the rosary I was using. I happened to have a copy of Michael Brown's *Life after Death* booklet in my car. He was so pleased to receive it and wanted to know how to pray a rosary. At this point I was so frustrated with myself for not keeping a supply of rosary books in the car (they are there *now*), and I

wondered how I could teach him.

He was aware of the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Hail Mary. I showed him what beads on the rosary to use to pray these prayers. There were several copies of the words to Jack Heintzel's song, *Lord of My Heart* in the car, so I gave him a copy. I told him to make his own rosary using a different name (or title) of "Jesus" for each decade until he could get a rosary booklet. At least this way he can get to know more about Jesus!

If I see him again, you can be sure he'll have several rosary booklets.

*(Ed. note: my thought is that we all have to be ready to share Jesus with anyone we encounter. The Boy Scouts have a motto which says "Be prepared." We should all be prepared to take creative advantage of the witnessing opportunities God gives us, as Lynn did.)*

## Pope Francis Speaks

"We need to let ourselves be imbued with the light of the Holy Spirit, to introduce us into the Truth of God...let us ask ourselves what steps we are taking so that our faith directs our whole existence. Do not be a "part-time" Christian, at certain moments, in certain circumstances, in certain choices. Be Christian at all times."

## Directed Prayer Weekend

You are invited to this silent directed prayer weekend. It's a chance for solitude and prayer in a quiet, peaceful environment. You will have opportunities to share privately with your director. The weekend is Scripturally based. Room is limited.

Dates: Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2015

Location: Villa Rosa, West Road, McKean, PA.

Information and reservations:  
call T.A. Walkiewicz at  
833-9717.

## Prayer Before Reading the Bible

Dear God, as I begin my reading and study of the Scriptures, help me to grow in understanding Your Word. May Your Word speak to me clearly and personally. Father, give me the power through Your Spirit to grow strong so that Christ may live in my heart through faith. And then, planted and rooted and built on love, I will know the love of Christ Jesus, which is beyond all understanding; help me to be filled with the utter fullness of God. Help me read with my heart as well as my mind. Renew my mind and my life through this reading and studying of Your Word. Blood of Jesus, cover me so I will be free from distractions and the power of the evil one. Amen. *Anon.*

# Day of Renewal

## October 17, 2015

To be held at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center  
147 West 24th Street, Erie, PA  
Sponsored by Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

**Experience:** Praise and worship, with music ministry • healing service • fellowship.

**Time:** 8:30 AM (registration) to 4:30 PM

**Registration fee:** \$20.00 per person, with brown bag lunch. Renewal Center will provide drinks.

Day of Renewal fee **must** accompany reservation.  
Reservation must be in by October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **Speaker: Father David L. Poulson**



Fr. David was ordained to the priesthood in 1979. He was assigned to teaching positions at Bradford Christian High School and then at Gannon University. In 1994 he was assigned as moderator at Bread of Life Community, a Catholic charismatic community. He is currently pastor of St. Anthony Church in Cambridge Springs, PA and also is the chaplain at the Cambridge Springs women's prison.

Fr. Poulson is Spiritual Director for the Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center and Diocesan Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal.

The theme of the Day of Renewal will be: "Growing the Gifts. Growing the Church."

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### **Registration for Day of Renewal October 17, 2015**

Submitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Word of Life Center and send to:  
T. A. Walkiewicz, 3656 Bellaire Drive, Erie, PA 16506. Phone: 814-833-9717

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Office hours:  
Not currently set

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

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“O God, by your wisdom you have formed humankind to have dominion over the world. Give me the wisdom that sits by your throne. I am your servant, weak and short-lived, with little understanding of Your ways. But I do understand that even one who is perfect among human beings will be as nothing without the wisdom that comes from You. Help me learn what is pleasing to You and walk in Your wisdom.”

*Book of Wisdom 9:1-11 NRSV*

**OCTOBER 2015**