



# Reflections

Word of Life  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

October 2016

## What Do I Stand For?

By Kathy Wilcox

We have seen headlines in the news recently about athletes who refuse to stand for our National Anthem. They are making a statement, they say, in protest about how some individuals in our country are treated. So they are sitting when almost everyone is standing in respect to our flag and to our country. Their actions are not really something new, however. We in the Catholic community should remember when President Clinton and his wife Hillary sat in protest, too.

The occasion was the National Prayer Breakfast, and the invited celebrity was (now Saint) Mother Theresa of Calcutta, who had received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Her address was about the value of life and against abortion. When she stopped speaking there was a hush and then an explosion of applause, and a standing ovation that lasted a solid five minutes. Bill and Hillary Clinton did not stand, however; they sat in stunned silence.

They chose to sit, rather than stand in respect because they disagreed with her message:

"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want," she said. "This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion." They chose to not stand for the life of the unborn; they instead remained seated to support the right of women to kill their babies.

Many are not concerned about whether folks sit or stand for our Anthem, saying it is a free speech matter. The more important issue, however, is that we are all being forced to look at our own position on social and moral issues, and to evaluate what we really will stand for. And each of us must ask: what will I protest? Am I willing to stand up for someone who has been wrongly accused? Am I willing to walk in a pro-life march and stand up for the unborn? Am I willing to refuse to listen to an off-color joke and walk away? Do I choose to not acknowledge that I am a Christian because those I am with are not?

It is time to realize that we now live in a secular country

and it is becoming more and more common that if we are Christians we are the odd ones, not the majority. So how will we deal with it when being a Christian is considered strange, or old fashioned or even a threat to others? What will we choose? Better still, whom will we choose? We need more than anything else, to stand up for Jesus, in all things, in all circumstances, at all times.

So, will I sit or will I stand? Will I speak or will I remain silent? Jesus told us how important these daily decisions really are. "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.(Matt. 10:32)."



## Important Dates

October 8<sup>th</sup> – Day of Renewal at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center  
(see page 7 for details)

October 10<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – The Gift Course, Life in the Spirit Seminar at St. Joseph BOL / Community Center.  
(see page 6 for details)

October 11<sup>th</sup> – Healing Mass at Holy Rosary Church  
(see page 6 for details)

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – The Gift course in Meadville  
(see page 6 for details)

November 4-6<sup>th</sup> – Silent Directed Prayer Weekend  
(see page 5 for details)

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Board of Directors meeting at St. Mark Center at 1:30 PM.

November 13<sup>th</sup> – Membership Dinner & Meeting at St. Mark Center.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Women's Day of Recollection at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center.



## **Mary's Faith, Hope and Love**

By Amy Mosbacher

So much is said about the mysteries of the rosary, and truly, we'll never be finished contemplating all they contain. However, I want to examine the first three Hail Marys before the mysteries, which are so small they could be overlooked. We pray them for faith, hope and love and then quickly move to meditate on bigger scenes. But let's stop for a moment and consider how we can invite our Holy Mother Mary to take our hands and make our hearts like hers as we pray.

Offer the intentions of faith, hope and love for the Hail Marys, but add another: honoring Mary as Daughter, Mother and Spouse, which coincide perfectly with the other virtues. First, think of the Virgin Mary as the daughter of the Father and the virtue of faith. The relationship a child has with her parents is one of reliance and trust. The child trusts the parents to take care of her, provide for her needs and love her. (Hopefully, it would never even occur to a child that a parent wouldn't do those things.) Our Father gives good things to those who ask Him (Mt. 7:11), and if He says "no," or if something doesn't make sense, there is still trust that our Father is doing what's best for us. That's faith. Mary's relationship with the Father was never tarnished with sin and she trusted Him implicitly. We can ask her to help our faith and trust in God to grow.

The next virtue is hope, and we can add to that honoring Mary as Mother of Jesus, or Mother of Hope. Jesus is our Hope in all occasions; our hope that there is more than this life, that this current suffering will pass away and we'll be better for it. When Our Lady heard Jesus say He would be killed and rise again, she may not have understood, and she still had to go through the agony and sorrow; but her faith and hope in the Father and Jesus kept despair at bay. We can ask Mary to strengthen our hope in God as our lifeline when life gets rough.

Finally, we pray for the virtue of love, and we honor Mary as Spouse of the Holy Spirit. We give glory to God when all of our actions, whatever deeds of mercy, whatever kindness we show, are motivated by love. And "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5)." We can ask Our Lady to help us love with her Immaculate Heart, since her heart is bound as Bride to the Holy Spirit. Also, ask Our Mother to help prepare our hearts for the mystical union with God. Being one with God is His desire for us, so why wait for Heaven? Ask Our Lady to help us desire to be espoused to our Beloved as well.

Once we've honored Our Lady as Daughter, Mother and Spouse, we can continue praying the rosary knowing that she will help us to grow ever so much closer to God in those beautiful virtues of faith, hope and love.

## Prayer Brunch

August 25, 2016

By Kathy Wilcox

Betty Ferguson was our invited speaker for the August prayer brunch, but she brought more than words. She opened her heart and shared her memories, her grief and her painful journey to God -- and finally forgiveness. Betty's life changed forever over 40 years ago in 1975 when her oldest daughter was brutally murdered. It took months before Betty discovered, after hiring her own private investigator, that Debbie was killed by a man who was known by her husband, and was her daughter's teacher, Raymond Payne.

Betty was so devastated by her daughter's tragic death, that she could not even attend the funeral or wake. Her younger children no longer had a mother, and were profoundly affected as well. They all failed the school year that Debbie was murdered. She went on to explain, "For 11 years I stayed pissed off, hurt, and angry. The anger was running my life. I took my anger everywhere I went --to bed with my husband, to work, shopping, everywhere. 'Damn him, damn him.' My children were angry, too. They were copying their mother."

As Betty sought help, she met with a hypnotist who counseled her to forgive her daughter's killer. But she did not want to hear it or to stop being mad. Then her son joined a hippie group and came home with a T-

shirt that said *Forgiveness is my favorite "F" word*. Her sister died, and at the funeral, she heard the Lord's Prayer recited and again heard "forgive." God finally got her attention, and she realized that forgiveness could save her life.

Betty learned that while forgiveness is a decision it does not just happen. A battle waged between her heart and mind. God was whispering in her heart that she should forgive, but in her mind was the cold fury for the person who had taken her precious first-born child. So a mantra began, she had to repeat "I forgive Ray" thousands and thousands and thousands of times. After many months she awoke one day and felt a huge weight being lifted off her body - she was free. She had finally forgiven Ray. The story did not end there. Betty began working at the Crime Victims Center in 1986 and found that the center was arranging meetings between victims and offenders. The meetings were resulting in healing for both sides. So she went to visit Ray Payne in prison (he was sentenced to a life sentence without parole for Debbie's murder) and additional healing occurred. She continues to visit him.

Even after 40 years, the pain this dear woman experienced was in her voice and demeanor. She told her story in short sentences, the only way she could tell it, because this tragedy had broken her in many ways. While the anger was finally gone, there is still grief

and loss. But she is telling her story, and she was able to smile when she showed us her daughters beautiful senior picture, and God's love shone in her face as she encouraged us to choose forgiveness. God is her companion in her continuing journey to wellness. God is bringing his healing to her broken heart and forgiveness opened the door.

Thank you, Betty, and may God continue to pour out his grace on you and your family.

If you forgive  
others the wrongs  
they have done to  
you, your Father in  
Heaven will also  
forgive you.

Matthew 6:14



### HEALING MASS

Our Lady of Peace Church  
2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. 7:30 PM  
First Wednesday of the month

### CONTEMPORARY MASS

Every Sunday 11:00 AM  
St. Joseph Church /  
Bread of Life Community  
Children's Liturgy of the Word

### PERPETUAL ADORATION

Bread of Life Chapel  
St. Joseph Community Center

### CHAPLET OF MERCY

Every day 3:00 PM  
Bread of Life Chapel

### ST. JOSEPH NOVENA

Every Wednesday 7:00 PM  
St. Joseph Church /  
Bread of Life Community

## MEMORIALS

### NO MEMORIALS 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.

**“Although you were made from nothing,  
you were not redeemed with nothing.  
In six days God created all things, including you,  
but for thirty years He worked out your salvation  
including the ignominy of dying on the cross.”**

*St. Bernard of Clairvaux*

## 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 Lake Rd. & 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

#### **St. Andrew Chapel**

**(formerly Leopold Center group)**  
1116 West 7th St.  
Mary Lou Peterson 866-5678  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary  
At 3:15 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 7:00 PM  
T.A. Walkiewicz 833-9717



For information on  
National Catholic  
Charismatic Renewal visit:  
<http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/>

## Silent Directed Prayer Weekend

The Silent Directed Prayer Weekend is a retreat that offers time for solitude and prayer. Scripturally based, it provides an opportunity to become increasingly open and aware of God's grace and invites you to a closer relationship with Him. The retreatants personal experience of God is the focus of the meetings with the director.

*Fr. Jerome Simmons will celebrate Liturgy on Saturday evening.*

**November 4-6, 2016** - Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Cost: \$100 - includes a private room and meals  
(some scholarships are available)

Villa Rosa, located on West Road in McKean, PA

Arrival: Friday Evening: 7:00 PM - Departure: Sunday Afternoon: 2:00 PM

### DIRECTORS OF THE RETREAT

**ROSEMARY O'BRIEN, SSJ** graduated from ST. Bonaventure University with an M.A. in Sacred Science, and completed a 4-year certification program in Spiritual Direction through Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA. She also completed a 2-year pastoral counseling certification program through Inter-Church Ministries in Erie County. Her present ministries include Formation, Spiritual Direction and Retreat Ministry, and refugee advocacy.

**AUDREY McLAUGHLIN, MA. BCC** is married and the mother of four sons. She has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a graduate degree in Pastoral Studies. She is a certified chaplain and recently obtained certification in Spiritual Direction. Audrey is currently a part-time instructor in the Social Work/Gerontology Department at Gannon University. She is an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph and a Eucharistic minister at Hamot Hospital.

### Emergency Prayer

On September 11, 2001, Stanley Praimnath was working on the 81st floor of the World Trade Center South Tower when he saw an airplane flying directly toward him. Stanley prayed a quick prayer as he dove under a desk for protection: "Lord, I can't do this! You take over!"

The terrible impact of the plane crash trapped Stanley behind a wall of debris. But as he prayed and cried for help, Brian Clark, a worker from another office, heard and responded. Making their way through rubble and darkness, the two found their way down 80 flights of stairs to the ground floor and out.

But we can be confident that God hears our prayers and will walk alongside us through everything.

When encountering terrible threats, David asked God for help. He wanted to be assured of God's nearness as he faced enemies in battle. In a heartfelt petition David said, "Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go, Do not be far from me, my God; come quickly, God, to help me" (Ps. 71:3, 12).

We aren't promised deliverance from every difficult situation we face. But we can be confident that God hears our prayers and will walk alongside us through everything.

*Whatever comes my way, please come near to me, Lord, to help. I cannot make it through anything without You.*

*Thank You.*

*Excerpt From My Daily Bread, 9/11/16*

### Registration Form - Silent Directed Prayer Weekend

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Director Choice: (Select One)

\_\_\_\_\_ Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ

\_\_\_\_\_ Audrey McLaughlin, MA BCC

Room: (Check One)

\_\_\_\_\_ Warm \_\_\_\_\_ Cool

Please Note: Space is limited

Rooms available on a first-come basis

Please make your reservation by October 27, 2016

**Mail Registration with payment to:**

Theresa Ann Walkiewicz

3656 Belaire Drive, Erie, PA 16506

(814) 833-9717

## the Gift

### a life in the Spirit Course

An inspiring and practical series aimed at helping us encounter the Holy Spirit and empower us to share our faith.

The six sessions cover:

- † The Father's Loving Plan
- † The Joy of the Gospel
- † The Gift of the Spirit
- † Unwrapping God's Gift
- † Encountering God's Spirit
- † Living in the Spirit

Sponsored by:

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Endorsed by Pope Francis : *"The Holy Father, Pope Francis, wishes to convey his good wishes and prayers for a successful and inspiring launch of The Gift – A Life in the Spirit Resource."* – February 2015

Every Monday Evening 7-9 PM  
October 10 – November 21, 2106

St. Joseph's Community Center  
147 W 24<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, PA 16502

Evening will include:

- Praise & Worship
- DVD Presentation
- Small Group Sharing
- Food & Fellowship

There is no charge for this course series  
Registration is greatly appreciated

### GIFT OF GOD COURSE

Come experience the "The Gift" of God in a new course with an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis. It focuses on unwrapping God's Gift for us: His Holy Spirit. Allow the Holy Spirit to be poured out, fill us up and overflow to the whole Church, once more enflaming us with zeal for God.

The six-week course will be offered in **Meadville, PA**. The course will begin on **Sunday, October 23, 2016** at 6 PM at St. Brigid Church.

Contact Amy Mosbacher for more information at 814-333-2274 or [amy.mosbacher@catholic-meadville.org](mailto:amy.mosbacher@catholic-meadville.org).

### Son of God Prayer Group

Invites you to attend a  
**HEALING MASS**

With presiders  
**Fr. David Poulson,**  
**Fr. David Renne, and**  
**Fr. Johnathan Schmolt**

At Holy Rosary Church  
28<sup>th</sup> & East Ave, Erie, PA

**Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

**Mass will begin at 6:30 PM.**

Doors opened at 5:30 PM

To provide you time to write your petitions on simulated brick wall. These petitions will be offered with the gifts at Mass.

Music by St. Joseph / BOL  
Community Music Ministry

### Registration Form – the GIFT, a life in the Spirit course

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mail Registration to:

Word of Life Center  
429 E. Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16514

#### Every Monday Evening

October 10 - November 21, 2016

## God Knows My Heart

By Lynn McIntire

Though I did not ask, God gave me my heart's desire which I was wanting so much. He not only gave it to me but doubled it. I've been walking on air ever since. I loved to sail and used to own large sail boats, so when the tall sailing vessels began arriving in Erie for their festival I watched a special three-masted vessel enter the bay with a zillion full sails. It was the Denis Sullivan schooner, with Erie native Tiffany Krihwan on board as Captain. The Erie newspaper then published a beautiful, informative article on Tiffany, including her being captain of several other tall ships throughout the Great Lakes area. It was my heart's

desire to at least get to view this ship while it was in dock. Wanting to avoid the large crowds, I drove to the Convention Center after Sunday's 7:30 Mass and parked there. But no one was allowed on the docks until 10 AM. I was told I could take the elevator in the Center to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor observation deck. When I walked into the Center lobby there was only one woman there with a large backpack passing through to the dock, so I asked her if she would ride up the elevator with me. She happily agreed.

In the elevator I said to her, "You look like the captain of the schooner" and she replied, "I am." Nonobservant me, I never noticed the word

"Captain" on the left side of her shirt. We then had a very enjoyable and interesting conversation while looking down on her ship. I asked if she were Catholic and she replied, "No, I'm Lutheran," but she wanted the Mother Teresa prayer card I passed to her. She asked for more, which I gave her (I keep a supply in my shirt pocket). God not only gave me my heart's desire, but gave me my own personal visit with Tiffany, whom I admire so much for her well-earned talent and her most unassuming personality. To me, this Jesus' perfect timing on display, and I can't possibly thank Him enough.

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## A Day of Renewal Mercy in Families

Saturday, October 8 2016  
8:30 am – 3:30 pm

St. Joseph's Church Community Center  
147 W 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16502

Cost: \$20.00  
Brown Bag Lunch  
Drinks will be provided

Sponsored by:

Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal  
For information call: (814) 824-1286 or (814) 833-9717  
Email: [wolccrc@eriercd.org](mailto:wolccrc@eriercd.org)



### Registration Form – A Day of Renewal, Mercy in Families

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration to:**

Word of Life Center  
429 E. Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16514

**Saturday, October 8, 2016**


Registration Deadline: Monday, October 3, 2016

**DIOCESE OF ERIE**  
**WORD OF LIFE**  
**Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center**  
429 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16514

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**October 2016**



**PRAY**  
**THE LORD**  
**OF THE HARVEST**  
**TO SEND OUT**  
**WORKERS**  
**INTO HIS HARVEST!**

**Luke 10:2**

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website: [www.wordoflifecrc.org](http://www.wordoflifecrc.org)

The office is generally open on  
Wednesday and/or Thursday only.

Please call before coming.

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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