



# Reflections

## Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

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September 2014

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

### Getting rid of ivy

By Kathy Wilcox

My daughter's newly purchased home is lovely. And while the ivy covering the flower beds was out of control, it seemed like just a one-time task to quickly yank it out. We pulled then we dug. But we ultimately discovered that each vine grows roots that attach to anything in its path, literally taking over flower beds, trees, and buildings. Landscapers who were contacted about removing it did not even call back; the one who finally agreed to the job sent three guys who toiled 16 hours to remove it. It is actually banned in some states as an invasive species.

I am digging into Dietrich von Hildebrand's little book *Humility*, an excerpt from his classic book, *Transformation in Christ*. The latter was written during his heroic struggle against Hitler's Nazi regime. He begins by explaining sin, and as I read on I realized that sin is a lot like ivy. It starts in just one spot where it is allowed to root, then grows and spreads to other places wherever it finds fertile soil.

So what is sin, really? Most of us just commit little ones, right? We believers don't kill anyone after all, and those little transgressions can't take over our

lives, can they? Van Hildebrand explains that we are born with Adam's sin, original sin, which is the disobedience of God. The consequences of original sin are two great enemies that will separate us from God: the dual sins of *pride* and *concupiscence* (the disordered desire for sensual pleasure). The two are not equal, however. Von Hildebrand states that pride is the primal evil, because it is rebellion against God and an “attempt to appropriate His power and dominion.” Adam's sin was not so much wanting the apple, because he had more than enough food to eat. It was really pride that drove him to disobedience; he did not want God telling him what to do!

But isn't original sin removed when we are baptized? Yes, but the root, or the inclination to sin, is still there. Our parents have a great responsibility to teach and guide us to make good choices, and to discipline our rebellion when it rears its ugly head. If they cannot, and the sin of rebellion, like the ivy, is given fertile ground and allowed to grow, it can and will take over our lives.

The obsession with “self” in our society has become an epidemic and is more dangerous

than any virus that attacks the body. Our souls are corrupted with concupiscence, and many of us spend our time seeking and indulging in our appearance, and in “feel good” pursuits that include good food, sexual pleasure, and entertainment. But the **primal evil**, pride, covers us and blinds us to the truth about ourselves.

Confession is the only way to get rid of the sins that cover us like ivy. If we confess the sins, God will remove them. But we then must have the desire to submit to God's discipline so that the areas of our lives that were invaded and infected by sin can be healed and transformed by God's Grace. For many, going to confession is not easy. It requires humility. But once we are in God's grace, we will be covered by His blood and His protection. Then sin will have a harder time taking root in our lives again.

Praise God for the sacrament of Reconciliation!

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Peace is seeing a sunset and knowing whom to thank.

## **Centering in**

By Liz Geary

### **Day of Renewal**

With some divine assistance, hopefully you are receiving this issue with time to register for the Day of Renewal scheduled for Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Registrations will also be taken at the door for this special day. A registration form and more information can be found in this edition of *Reflections*. You are welcome to fill it out and bring it with you on September 6<sup>th</sup> or forms will be available at the registration table when you arrive. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Holy Spirit, Let the Fire Fall!!

### **Labor Day**

Please be advised that the office of the Word of Life Renewal Center will be closed on Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day. All St. Mark Catholic Center offices will also be closed on that day. The Word of Life Renewal Center office will open for usual office hours on Wednesday, September 3rd.

### **Intercessory Prayer Team**

Some of you may not be aware that the Center has an intercessory prayer team. This is just one of the ministries that the Word of Life Center invites people to be a part of. Those on the team pray for the Center's intentions, which are mailed or e-mailed to you by the office approximately four times per year. If you are interested in joining the Word of Life Center intercessory prayer team or have

any questions regarding this ministry, please contact the Center to be added to the list and start receiving intentions.

### **Prayer Brunch**

Please mark your calendars for the prayer brunch scheduled for Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Joe's/Bread of Life Community Center. Our featured speaker will be Amy Mosbacher. Please remember to get your reservations in by Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in order to get reservations to the caterer in a timely fashion. I look forward to seeing everyone on October 25<sup>th</sup>!

### **"Rock the Lakes"**

For those of you who may not have already heard, "Rock the Lakes" is taking place in Erie on Saturday and Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at the Erie Insurance Arena. The event is sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. More information and registration forms are available by visiting [www.RocktheLakes.org](http://www.RocktheLakes.org) or calling 814-315-0038. Everyone is invited to attend this uplifting event. If anyone plans on attending and would be interested in writing about the weekend in *Reflections*, please contact the office.

### **Memorial Cards Available**

This is just a reminder that memorial cards are still available by contacting the Center. I will gladly send them to you. Memorials are prayed for in the office and are always listed on page 4 of *Reflections*.

## **Women's and Men's Conferences Scheduled**

The first annual 1:38 Women's Conference (*Ref. Lk. 1:38*) is scheduled for Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Warner Theater in Erie. Featured speakers will be Sonja Corbitt, Sr. Catherine Marie, and Fr. Larry Richards. For more information or to register please visit [www.138women.com](http://www.138women.com) or call 814-455-7364.

The second annual 2232 Men's Conference (*Ref. Lk. 22:32*) is scheduled for Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Warner Theater in Erie from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Featured speakers will be Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Jesse Romero, and Fr. Larry Richards. Bishop Persico plans to be in attendance as well. For more information or to register please visit [www.2232men.com](http://www.2232men.com) or call 814-455-7364.

### **Center Finances**

This is most certainly not my favorite thing to discuss, but the Center has fallen behind for 2014. Even with many measures being taken to curb expenditures, we are several hundred dollars in the red thus far for the year. I would ask that if you have been considering making a donation and have "just not gotten around to putting that check in the mail," please do so. If you have fallen behind with pledge payments, please do your best to get current. This ministry cannot continue without your support and prayers. Thank you for your support and prayers. They are always appreciated.

## How God dispenses His truth

By Agnes D. Helsley

The death in March of my daughter-in-law showed me the importance of journaling. I still go back and read my prayers for the family which, of course, included her. The Lord assured me in my journaling that He held my loved ones in His arms. He would not let go! In my grief I took that word from my journal to my spiritual director. I was questioning if it was just my wishful thinking and wanting it to be so. The entry in my journal was on February 23 and my daughter-in-law passed away on March 3. My wise spiritual director asked me, "Has God ever lied to you?" You know the answer to that question! That was so comforting.

Journaling is a large part of my morning prayer time. Something like a mini Book of Acts. There are so very many concerns in all of our lives. Bringing them to God and listening for His words of encouragement, comfort, and direction (including corrections) is priceless.

Another comfort and affirmation of His word is the ability He has given to so many believers to provide us with songs of worship. So many artists have taken the words from Scripture and put them to music to soothe our world-weary souls. It became a habit for me in January to play worship CDs as I did my household chores. My mantra became "Unto Thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God I trust in

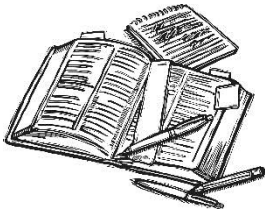
Thee. Let me not be afraid. Let not my enemy triumph over me!" That is an adaptation of Ps 25:1, 2, another pillar of support.

The most important prayer pillar, the most life-giving, is the Word of God; it allows His truths to transform our lives. God's Word is ideally a mirror to look into and observe our conformance to it. We look for guidance, direction and correction. Paul's second letter to Timothy chapter 3, verses 16 - 17, explains it quite nicely. A good scripture to memorize!

Just as we use a mirror to check our physical appearance we need to apply the Godly directives of scripture to check our spiritual stability. In a devotional I read recently, the author quotes from the book of Ezra 7:10. It states that Ezra literally "set his heart"

to study and obey the law of God. We can't walk in truth and share God's truth until we "set our hearts" to know it, live it and develop a genuine hunger for it! The author

stressed *sharing* the truth that we discover as we mine the riches in God's word. We will learn enough truth to change the atmosphere in our homes and impact social circles with love. Charles R. Swindoll gets to the nitty-gritty with, "You have all the truth you need right now if you'll just build on it. What a difference it will make. Make a personal commitment to become a loyal student of it. Put the truth in action. Refuse to keep it theoretical! Once you take that challenge and decide to be a different kind of person, you begin to share what God is teaching you. It is amazing how



much benefit you will find in the truth you begin to live. Best of all, you will genuinely reflect it!"

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### A supporting prophecy:

I have filled you with my Holy Spirit so you can grow in holiness. I want you to be different than those in the world – dedicated to Me and sharing the Gospel. You are a reflection of Me to those who see you. May they see My love in all you do.

*Joint prophecy from Acts II Community, Judi Janke and Jack Heintzel, July 2014.*

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### The continuing conversation

When no one else is around, do you talk to yourself? When he was alone, the 17th-century Christian monk known as Brother Lawrence carried on conversations with God.

Lawrence was the cook for his religious community. He practiced the presence of God while he prepared meals. Describing his experience of work and prayer, he said:

"The time of business does not...differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are calling for different things, I possess God in the same great tranquility as if I were upon my knees."

With God's help, our prayer life can bring a similar tranquility to our busy days.

### Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace  
2401 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. 7:30 PM  
Wednesday Sept. 3, 2014

### 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 7:00PM

### **Memorials**

#### **In memory of**

James Hoke  
Audrey Ohman  
Sr. Norbert Wiley  
Lewis Cox  
James Rash  
Nephew of Brian Tenney  
Mary F. Page  
Gus Janke

#### **Requested by**

Sr. Marie Celeste  
" "  
" "  
" "  
" "  
" "  
T.A. Walkiewicz  
T.A. Walkiewicz, Mike & Antonia Vehec,  
Sr. Mary Helen Forney, Lynette Coleman,  
Frank & Belle Chylinski, Carol Mando,  
Jack & Jean Heintzel, Meg Allin  
Carol Mando  
" "

Josephine Mary Carrig  
Anne Hyatt

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.

**It's what we learn after we think we know it all  
that really counts.**

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  
September 7,14,21,28

#### **Acts II Community**

St. Julia Church 6:30 PM  
West 8<sup>th</sup> & Powell Ave.  
Jack Heintzel 838-1325  
September 7,14,21,28

#### **† 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  
September 1,8,15,22,29

#### **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)  
September 1,8,15,22,29  
(Except major holidays)

#### **River of Life PG**

2nd & 4th Monday evenings  
7:00 PM  
St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA  
Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104  
September 8,22

#### **† Tuesday:**

**Son of God Prayer Group**  
Holy Rosary Church  
2701 East Ave. 7:00 PM  
Pat Montefiori 823-3968  
September 2,9,16,23,30

#### **Chosen Prayer Group**

St. Theresa Church,  
Shinglehouse, PA 10 AM – 12 Noon  
Mary Kuhn (814) 697-7519  
September 2,9,16,23,30

#### **† Wednesday:**

**St. Mark's Prayer Group**  
St. Mark Church 7:00 PM  
Religious Education Center  
Emporium, PA  
September 3,10,17,24

#### **† 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  
September 11

#### **St. Joseph Church /Bread of Life Prayer Meeting**

7:00 PM  
139 W. 24<sup>th</sup> St. – Upstairs in Center  
Regi Connelly (814) 866-0505  
September 4,11,18,25 (Call first)

#### **St. Boniface PG**

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00 PM  
John Griebel 825-3588  
September 4,11,18,25

#### **† Friday:**

**Light of the World Community**  
In-home Prayer Meeting – Call for  
Location 7:30 PM  
Bob Zimmer 868-5344  
September 5,12,19,26

## An inmate's farewell

*(Ed. note: This letter is from an inmate at the men's prison at SCI Albion. He had been incarcerated for 27 years and was finally released. He attended the Life in the Spirit seminars and the bi-weekly prayer meetings at the prison, all sponsored by the Word of Life Center. This is a touching farewell letter to the WOLC volunteers he had come to know and appreciate. There are six members on the prayer meeting team. He also addressed the letter to the fellow inmates he has left behind.)*

My dear brothers and sisters,

As I take pen in hand to bid farewell, I do so with a great deal of sadness. However, it is in that sadness that I find our Lord is most comforting, sharing with me the revelation, insight, and vision of His will into the ministry that each of you has been called. The ministry of the volunteers working with the men, and the men working with and setting as example for the men around them.

To the volunteers I have a short story that I believe the Lord has placed on my heart to share: "There was a six-year-old girl who was in the hospital awaiting surgery for her heart. Every day the surgeon came to her room to check on her as he prepared for the day of surgery. One day the little girl asked the surgeon, 'what are you going to do?' He said 'I am going to take a look at your heart and see what needs to be fixed, and then fix it.' The little girl said, 'I know what you're going to see.' A bit bewildered, the surgeon asked, 'what am I going to see?' The little girl responded with, 'you're

going to see Jesus because Jesus lives in my heart.' The surgeon said nothing and left, but in the following days when the surgeon would come to check on her she would repeat, 'I know what you're going to see.' Not a believer, the surgeon was somewhat frustrated by the little girl's unrelenting belief that Jesus is in her heart."

"The day for surgery came and as the surgeon opened her chest he was completely blown away. That little heart was so damaged that even with all his skill there was nothing he could do. He knew that little heart would only beat a day or two longer. So disturbed by the heart that he saw he sat with her in the recovery room. When she came around she looked at the surgeon and very groggily said, 'what did you see?' With tears in his eyes he looked at the little one and said, 'I saw Jesus!'"

What the Lord has shown me through that story is: Denise, Dan, Leslie, Jane, Jack and Dan, you came and you've opened the chest cavity of the D.O.C. (note: short for Department of Corrections), and when you looked inside you bore witness of the damaged hearts, hearts that were damaged by abuse, neglect, addiction, guilt, and abandonment. You then returned to your Churches and your families, and they asked "what did you see?" I am



confident of your answer, "I saw Jesus."

In John chapter 11 we all know the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. But it is verse 44 that I'd like to bring to your attention. Lazarus came forth bound in the grave clothes, and in verse 44 Jesus said, "loose him and let him go." Jesus told them to loose him and let him go from those things that kept him bound to death. Notice that here is no record that they grabbed one end of the grave bandage and spun Lazarus like a top. We can only visualize that as Jesus looked on, how very tenderly and gingerly they unraveled those things that bound Lazarus to death.

I truly believe that the ministry Jesus has led each of you into is very similar to that of those with Lazarus. My confidence is that you have come to those who were bound to death through shame, guilt, addiction, unloved, abandoned, abuse, and neglect – and are following the instruction of Jesus to "loose them and let them go." How blessed I have been to bear witness to the depth of your love as you have very tenderly helped men unravel those things that have kept them bound to death.

To the men who attend Life in the Spirit, I cannot begin to tell you how deeply some of you men have touched my heart and my spirit. The gifts that some of you possess will be used in a mighty way for the Kingdom of God, provided you exercise those gifts with the same humility in which you received them. I encourage each of you to seek those who will help you unravel those things that have kept you bound to the

*Cont. on page 6*

## The Church in the future

The following is an excerpt from *Faith and the Future*, a book by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The book's five chapters were originally presented from 1969-70 by then Fr. Ratzinger as radio addresses on German and Vatican radio. (*Ed. note: only a small selection from the Pope's addresses are included here.*)

"From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge – a Church that has lost much. She will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning. She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity."

"The Church will be a more spiritual Church. It will be hard going for the Church, for the process of crystallization and clarification will cost her much valuable energy. It will make her poor and cause her to become the Church of the meek."

"The process will be all the more arduous, for sectarian narrow-mindedness as well as a pompous self-will will have to be shed. The process will be long and wearisome. But when the trial of this sifting is past, a great power will flow from a more spiritualized and simplified Church."

"And so it seems certain to me that the Church is facing very hard times. The real crisis has scarcely begun. We will have to count on terrific upheavals. But I am equally certain about what will remain at the end -- not the Church of the political cult, but the Church of faith. She may well no longer be the dominant social power to the extent that she was until recently; but she will enjoy a fresh blossoming and be seen as man's

home, where he will find life and hope beyond death."

Source: *Renewal Ministries*  
newsletter, March 2014

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## Daily Meditation

Remember, Christian soul, that thou has this day and every day of thy life: God to glorify, Jesus to imitate, the angels and saints to invoke, a soul to save, a body to mortify, sins to expiate, virtues to acquire, hell to avoid, heaven to gain, eternity to prepare for, time to profit by, neighbors to edify, the world to despise, devils to combat, passions to subdue, death perhaps to suffer and judgment to undergo.

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## Farewell from page 5

past and death, for it is only in that unraveling that the new risen man can be fully revealed.

To all my brothers and sisters I remind each of you to be aware of the gifts given to one another, for it is only in that awareness that we are able to nurture those gifts so they can be used in their fullness for the building of the Body. At times we can get so wrapped up in the use of our gift, that we neglect the responsibility we have in nurturing others in the use of their gift.

I leave you with one request, that you remember me in your prayers as I will fondly remember and present you before the Throne of God in my prayers. Your love for Jesus I will hold near to my heart as I continue on my journey.

I leave you all in the Peace and Love of our Lord, Christ Jesus.

Jerry

## When ears won't hear

I went downtown shopping for designer sheets when someone whispered, "I have no bed."

I stood at an appliance store comparing prices of microwave ovens when an Ethiopian woman wept, "I have no food."

I hired a decorator to remodel my kitchen and to add more cupboards when a Cambodian child sobbed, "I have no cup."

I dreamed of building a getaway place, a cabin in the woods, a country place. Across the water came the cry, "I have no country."

I bought a new widescreen TV for a loved one's pleasure when a war orphan murmured, "I have no loved ones."

May God forgive us when our ears won't hear and our eyes won't see the sounds and sights of suffering around us. Amen.

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## Rain

A rainy day can be many things ...  
It can be moisture for the farmer's garden,  
Or the picnic that has to be postponed;  
It can be the replenishing of a stream,  
Or the overflow of a flood;  
It can be relief from a hot summer day,  
Or the chill of an autumn wind.  
The rotating cycle of clouds to earth  
Is part of Nature's plan for stability throughout the universe,  
As old as the hills,  
And dependable as the seasons.  
Rain and sunshine are equal partners in the daily expression of God's love.

— Jeanne D. Birrell

*Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center Presents*

## **A Day of Renewal with Renee Marazon**

**Saturday, September 6, 2014** *"Fully Catholic,*  
**8:30AM—4:30PM**

*Fully Charismatic"*

**St. Joseph Church/  
Bread of Life  
Community Center  
147 West 24th St.**

**Registration Fee:  
\$20.00 per person  
Brown Bag lunch.  
Center will provide  
drinks.**

**Praise and Worship  
Led by  
Bart Foradora and  
friends**

**Director: Renee Marazon**

Renee Marazon is a Catholic author, consultant, and conference/retreat presenter. She serves as a Catholic Charismatic Renewal National Service Committee Council Member and is actively involved in her home parish, Blessed John XXIII in Perrysburg, Ohio.

She has a passionate love for the Lord and a deep desire to be a part of the renewal of the Church in this New Millennium. Ms. Marazon has helped parish communities develop a



**Renee Marazon**

parish wide charism discernment process for living more fully and intentionally "in the Spirit."

She conducts parish missions, retreats, and workshops for laity, priests, and religious. Her passion is to share the joy and excitement of "Life in the Spirit" with all those she meets.



**Join us for this day of renewal**  
**Be set on fire again by the Holy Spirit**

**Register on line at [www.wordoflifecrc.org](http://www.wordoflifecrc.org)**

For further information call (814) 824-1286 or E-mail: [wolccrc@eriercd.org](mailto:wolccrc@eriercd.org)

### **2014 Day of Renewal September 6, 2014**

Registration included \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to: Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie PA 16504**

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Erie, PA 16504

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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.

Editor: Jack Heintzel

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

Typist: Carol Mando

Volume XXVIII

Issue No. 9

*I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they  
comfort me.*



Psalm 23:4

**September 2014**