



Reflections

Word of Life
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

September 2016

When Mercy Chooses Us

By Amy Mosbacher

There are some times when my selfishness astounds me. But perhaps I'm jumping into the middle of a story. Let me back up a bit.

All year long my teenage daughters acquire service hours from Confirmation hours to school projects. We've talked a lot about the Year of Mercy and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We've also talked about the signatures they have to get to prove they did the work. Some of this work they've done for years, but now to get credit someone has to acknowledge it with their signature. It made a pretty good comparison for the "credit" we get with God. When we do works of mercy we need to be inconspicuous. "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the

needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Mt. 6: 2-4) If our hearts get filled up with human praise then we'll have no room for God's praise, which is the only praise that matters.

How easy it is to do merciful works when we're feeling generous! But how much more beneficial it is for our souls to do a work when we don't feel like being merciful. Recently, I was visiting my mom in Illinois and an opportunity for mercy presented itself. It wasn't what I had planned and what quite a bit away from the direction I was going, but I did it. As I sat there with the person, I knew full well how begrudging I felt. "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." (Mt. 15:8) That was me. I knew my attitude was lousy and Jesus was

expecting better from me, but my heart just wasn't in it. I tried to remember that someday I could be in that situation, and how happy I would be if someone did this for me. The experience was extremely humbling and reminded me I have such a long way to go. Sometimes being merciful is hard, and if there's no love, then there's no merit. (Remember, love is an action, not just a feeling.) At the same time, I was glad God chose me to display His mercy to someone as it reminded me again of how desperately I, myself, need His mercy. We're not perfect, but through opportunities like that one God can stretch us, further us on the road to Him. Thanks be to God!

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."
Jn.15:16

Centering In

Important Dates

August 27th – Prayer Brunch at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center at 9:30 AM. Betty Ferguson on “Forgiveness.”

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

October 10th to Nov. 21st – Seven Monday sessions -- Life in the Spirit Seminar at St. Joseph BOL / Community Center.

October 10th – The Gift course in Erie (see page 6 for details)

October 11th – Healing Mass at Holy Rosary Church (see page 5 for details)

October 23rd – The Gift course in Meadville (see page 5)

November 5th – Albion Prison Life in the Spirit Seminar

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

November 13th – Membership Dinner & Meeting at St. Mark Center.

December 3rd – Women’s Day of Recollection at St. Joseph / BOL Community Center.



Charismatic Renewal and Young Adults

By John Beaulieu

“The United States has a young adult problem.” I cannot tell you how many times I have heard that statement over the past few years. Between 70 and 80% of young Catholics who are active in their faith at age 15 are inactive by age 28. They leave the Church for a non-denominational congregation (often with a Pentecostal style of worship) or they fall into the ever-expanding category of people who label themselves as a “none.”

But I do not think it is fair to say the Church has a young adult problem. Young adults are not the problem. If anything, they are the great hope for the Church. The challenge for the Church is to present the fullness of the faith to young adults in a way that is transformative and transcendent and empowering for young people to live the faith. In that way, charismatic renewal is our great hope and holds the key to reclaiming lost generations. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can, in times of great relativism, materialism, and growing atheism, break through the great cloud of deceit and indifference and like a lighthouse, guide the young Church back into His loving arms.

So much has been written about this current generation. They have been labeled “Generation Y,” the “Mosaics” and the “iGen.” They have been described as narcissists, self-centered, entitled, hedonistic and lazy. We need to stop la-

beling young adults and start getting to know them. Many of the young adults I know struggle with self-identity, anxiety, and depression. They are not hostile towards religion, they just have not seen a true living witness of a joyful disciple. They have become skeptical of institutions—especially religions. The sexual scandals of the Catholic Church, not to mention the throw-away attitude towards life and marriage that have been the hallmarks of their culture have left them questioning everything.

On the campus of Franciscan University where I work, hundreds of students go through a Born in the Spirit retreat each semester. This is part of the transformative experience of being a student at Franciscan and helps prepare the graduates we send forth to serve the Church in lay and religious vacations and ministries. The Holy Spirit is active and alive in the hearts of young Catholics and He is restoring the hearts and lives of young adults everywhere He is invited.

The Holy Spirit will come in the way He sees fit for this new generation. Young adults need mentoring based on authentic love and relationship. Finally, we need to be empowering young adults for mission. Young adults want to make a difference. There has never been a bigger “difference maker” in the life of the Church than Pentecost. We need to pray for this to happen again.

(Excerpted by the editor from Pentecost Today, Spring 2016, Volume 41, number 2)

The Power of Love and Kindness

By Kathy Wilcox

I was attending a multi-faith event and was approached by a woman who wanted to know what my religious denomination was. When I said that I was Catholic, she quickly told me that she used to be Catholic but had decided to leave the church. It seems that she was invited to a bible study by a friend and faithfully attended for two years. At the end of that time, she explained, she realized that the Catholic Church had “lied” to her. “What do you think about that?” she challenged me. I said a quick mental prayer, and then told her that whatever denomination we belong to, each person has to ask Jesus into his heart, seek forgiveness for our sins and have a personal relationship with him. I went on to explain that when my “conversion” happened, the Lord told me to bloom where I was planted, and to pray for and to lead others in the Catholic Church to conversion as well.

“But don’t you care that the Catholic Church is lying to you?” she asked angrily?

“I know that there are differences between denominations regarding doctrines.” I responded, “but when I die, I will meet Jesus and I really don’t think he will give me a quiz on doctrine. He will ask me if I love Him and if I have loved others. So if you have found a church where you have a personal relationship with

Jesus and feel loved, then I am happy for you.”

I noticed that her husband standing behind her was getting very uncomfortable, and tapped her arm to get her to end the conversation. She again repeated “the Catholic Church lies,” and walked away.

I was shaken by the confrontation, and when I had time to regain my composure, I thought of many other things I could have explained. But after further reflection, I understood that there was nothing I could have said to change her mind. I also realized that she was actually trying to evangelize me, to get me to leave the Catholic Church just as she had done.

I then reflected on my own experience. I remembered that I was led to the Charismatic Renewal by a young woman who said nothing about doctrine. She was kind to me. She befriended me. She radiated God’s love so powerfully that I finally told her that I wanted what she had. And then she shared her faith.

I am praying for this dear lady, that she seeks and finds the love of God. God’s love is not found in doctrines; it radiates from those who have asked him into their heart.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience....And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Colossians 3:12 & 14

Women’s Conference

Join us for the 3rd Annual 1:38 Women’s Conference on October 1, 2016 at the Warner Theatre in downtown Erie, PA. Be inspired by National speakers: Mother Mary Assumpta Long, O.P., Prioress General of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; Leah Darrow, Catholic speaker, author and former model on America’s Next Top Model; and Co-Speakers, Michele Faehnie and Emily Jaminet, contributors to CatholicMom.com. Cost is \$40, visit our website www.138women.com or call The Reason for Our Hope Foundation at 814-455-7364 for more information and to register.

The Holy Spirit, The Paraclete

In the book *Healing the Masculine Soul*, Gordon Dalbey says that when Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Helper, He uses a Greek word, paraclete, that was an ancient warrior’s term.

“Greek soldiers went into battle in pairs,” says Dalbey, “so when the enemy attacked they could draw together back-to-back, covering each other’s blind side. One’s battle partner was the paraclete.”

Our Lord does not send us to fight the good fight alone. The Holy Spirit is our battle partner who covers our blind side and fights for our well-being.

Tom Tripp

Healing Mass

Our Lady of Peace Church

2401 W. 38th St. 7:30 PM

First Wednesday of the month

EXCEPT July, August & September

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 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.

“Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin. All hope consists in confession. In confession there is a chance for mercy. Believe it firmly. Do not doubt, do not hesitate, never despair of the mercy of God. Hope and have confidence in confession.”

St. Isidore of Seville

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

2nd Thursday of month 4:30 PM

5031 W. Ridge Rd..

S.S.J. Living Center

Sr. Gerry Olon 836-4165

St. Boniface PG

7615 Wattsburg Rd. 7:00 PM

John Griebel 825-3588

† Friday:

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting – Call for

Location 7:00 PM

T.A. Walkiewicz 833-9717



A Test of Faith

By Agnes D. Helsley

On June 11 of this year I tripped while leaving a grocery store. There was no reason for the fall except perhaps my negligence. Consider eight falls in a span of a year, always falling forward coming down on both knees. Looking back I am sure God was sending a message to a very obtuse child of His.

The result of this fall was a broken leg, a post-polio leg that was a questionable leg to stand on but the only left leg I had! I now had a broken femur, patella and two large bones which resulted in surgery with a plate with many screws and an immobilizer and a non-weight bearing status for six weeks. I found comfort in reciting Scriptures. A hospital staff member asked me if I knew the Our Father. I recited that for her and returned to my Scripture recitation. I could not understand her aversion to what were genuine prayers for strength and peace. The pain was overwhelming.

After three days in the hospital I was transferred to Sarah Reed where I met many beautiful people who were extremely caring and capable. I imagined that tiny little knitting needles were beginning the healing process. A dear friend brought me an excellent book on the value of proving God, trusting His Word to be valid in our lives. Aha, the real secret for my crying out to my Savior for help—His Word is true and He honors His promises!

There were many people to pray for while doing rehab,

many tears to help dry. I was privileged to share prayer with new friends, get reconnected with old friends and in general become more aware of how blessed I am with a loving husband, generous family providing for his needs in my absence. I did not lack company, flowers or words of encouragement. During my confinement there were three family members who passed away and also a few friends. Life is a gift given us. God knows exactly the day we are to arrive in this world, what day we will depart, and the means by which He will take us. We are His people, created for His glory, surrendered to His purpose.

May God bless our healthcare givers, and give us grateful hearts for all His benefits. I am finally back home at Parkside. I have a long, hard road to healing but I am walking with Jesus every step of the way!

Looking into Our Eyes

Joe Torre had been a catcher and a broadcast announcer for the St. Louis Cardinals. Shortly after he was named manager, according to the *Pittsburgh Press*, New York Yankees' announcer Phil Rizzuto suggested that managing could be done better from high above the baseball field—from the level of the broadcasting booth.

Torre replied, "Upstairs, you can't look in their eyes."

In Jesus Christ, God also chose to come down on the field and look into our eyes.

David R. Martin

"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.

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
28th & East Avenue
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 a simulated brick wall.

These petitions will be offered with the gifts at Mass.

Music by St. Joseph / BOL
Community music ministry

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



A FREE COURSE

Sponsored by :

Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center

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, 2016

St. Joseph's Church Community Center
147 W 24th St. Erie, PA 16502

Evening will include:

Praise and Worship — DVD Presentation
Small Group Sharing — Food and Fellowship

For information call: 814-824-1286 or 814-833-9717 Email: wolccrc@eriercd.org
There is no charge for this course series, Registration is greatly appreciated.

Registration: The GIFT: a life in the Spirit course
Every Monday Evening 7-9 PM - October 10—November 21, 2016

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____

Saturday, October 8, 2016

8:30 am 3:30 pm

St. Joseph's Church Community Center
147 W 24th St. Erie, PA 16502

Speaker:
To Be Announced

A Day of Renewal Mercy In Families

Cost: \$20.00

Bring Brown Bag Lunch

Drinks will be provided

Sponsored by :

Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center

For information call: 814-824-1286 or 814-833-9717 Email: wolccrc@erierod.org

Registration: Day of Renewal - Mercy in Families
Saturday, October 8, 2016

Cost is \$20.00 payment and registration required by Monday, October 3, 2016
Mail to: Word of Life Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit No. 285

Sow for yourselves
righteousness,
reap the fruit
of unfailing
love ...

Hosea 10:12, NIV



Reflections is published monthly by:
Word of Life Catholic
Charismatic Renewal Center
429 E. Grandview Blvd.
Erie PA 16514
(814) 824-1286
fax: 824-1285
e-mail: wolccrc@eriercd.org
website: 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.

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

Volume XXX

Issue No. 8

September 2016