

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



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# **BULLETIN**

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**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**RUNG THREE**  
**OBEDIENCE/SUBMISSION TO GOD**  
**April 2018**

**Bulletin Cover: God In Nature**

**Photo by Sr. Deborah**

This photo was taken at the home of Sr. Linda Thomas, Lone Jack Missouri. Sr. Linda's hospitality to all who visited her oasis was warm and welcoming; a quiet place to soothe the soul.

**Please email Sr. Deborah (strdeborah@hotmail.com) your photographs of the beauty of our world for use in Our Bulletins this year. Kindly include the State or Province the photo was taken.**

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**Community Communication Contacts:**

**Prayer Requests and News Notes for the monthly Bulletin** - email Br. Ephrem, andrews8484@hotmail.com or see green sheets for his mailing address.

**Changes of address, phone numbers, email addresses** - email Sr. Christine casturges@gmail.com or Sr. Deborah strdeborah@hotmail.com or see green sheets for mailing addresses.

**Urgent Community Prayer Requests for email distribution** – email or call Sr. LaVerne Peter Callaghan@aol.com, Sr. Christine casturges@gmail.com or Sr. Deborah strdeborah@hotmail.com

**Financial Contributions –**

Members residing in the U.S., make checks payable to WSHS/WBHS and mail to:

Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS, Treasurer, United States, 12900 Glenwood Street, Apt. 108, Overland Park, KS 66209

If you pay any bills through your bank, you can easily send your contributions to WSHS the same way. Use the address above to send your check. You can make a one-time payment or a recurring payment. If you have questions, your bank will be happy to help you. And - you don't need any postage!

Members residing in Canada, make cheques payable to WSHS/WBHS and mail to Br. David, WBHS, Treasurer, Canada, 2170 Preston Road, Cavan Monaghan, Ontario, K9J 0G5 Canada

**Contributions to Haiti Clean Water Project –**

Check contributions to the Haiti Clean Water Project may be mailed to Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS, 7711 E Waverly Street, Tucson, AZ 85715. Please make your check payable to Alexandra Zarris. Put "WSHS Haiti Clean Water" in the memo line.

**Problems Receiving your Bulletin** - If you are not receiving the monthly Bulletin (by regular mail or by email), please email or **call Sr. Christine, not Trina.** Thank you.

**If a friend expresses interest in WSHS/WBHS, remember to direct them to our website, [www.workersisters.org](http://www.workersisters.org), [www.workerbrothers.org](http://www.workerbrothers.org)**

**THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Web Addresses: [workersisters.org](http://workersisters.org) [workerbrothers.org](http://workerbrothers.org)**

Trina Avedisian, Friend, WSHS  
Sr. Sharron Magdalene, WSHS

Layout & Design WSHS/WBHS Bulletin  
Proof Reader

**Contributing Staff**

Br. Ephrem, WBHS  
Shirley Pace, WSHS  
Sr. Christine, WSHS  
Sr. Deborah, WSHS

News Notes and Prayer List  
Calendar  
Co-Director  
Co-Director

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Sr. M. Regina Goberna, O.S.B. (New City Press, NY, 1983)  
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**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
APRIL 2018**

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS**

Corporate Communion and meetings are held monthly where members are within physical proximity of each other. Currently these gatherings are taking place in the following locations. For more information, please contact the Community member listed below.

Ontario, Canada  
Michigan USA  
Kansas City, MO USA  
Southern MO USA  
Pleasant Hill, TN USA  
Arizona USA

Br. David, WBHS  
Sr. Julie Margaret, WSHS  
Sr. Dorothy Cecilia, WSHS  
James Easter, WBHS  
Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS  
Sr. Carol Matthew, WSHS

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2018**

April 21 • May 5 • June 23 • July 28 • August 25  
September 22 • October 27 • November 17 • December 8

***Retreat 2018 – May 3-6, 2018  
Celebrating Our 45th Anniversary -  
Our Journey Walking with St. Benedict  
Mercy Center, St. Louis, Missouri***

**Call to Prayer.** Please remember our Community in prayer twice a day 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM in your time zone and pray for World Peace at Noon.



**8:00 AM - Prayer for our Community  
12:00 Noon - Prayer for World Peace  
5:00 PM - Prayer for our Community**



## COMMUNITY CHANGES

*Please make the following alterations to your Green Sheets:*

### NEW COMPANION – *Fr. David Lynch*

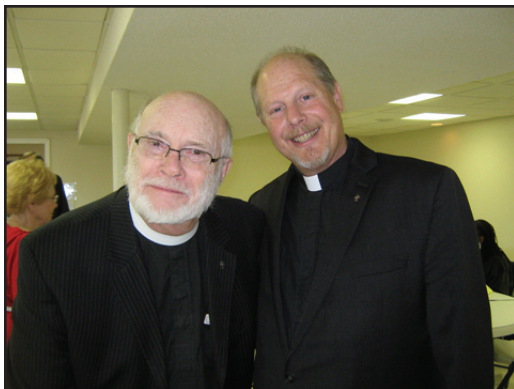
Fr. David Lynch, Companion, WSHS  
 2709 NE Seth Ct.  
 Blue Springs, MO 64014  
 Cell Phone: 913-927-4259  
 Email: drlynch2012@gmail.com • Birthday: May 8



We are pleased to welcome Fr. David Lynch to our Community. On Feb. 25, 2018 Fr. David was admitted as a Companion by Sr. Dorothy Gregory, WSHS, at The Church of the Resurrection in Blue Springs, MO. Sr. Nancy Teresa, Sr. Nancy Clare, Bonnie Mathews, Companion and Fr. Harry Firth, Companion were there also. Fr. David is the Parish Priest at Church of the Resurrection. The photo below shows Fr. Firth with Fr. David.

In his youth Fr. David was active in the Methodist Church and attended a Methodist college in hopes of becoming a Methodist minister. He met his wife, Deb, in college and after graduation they married. They then moved to Kansas City where both were working on their Masters degrees in music. His career took an abrupt turn when he dropped out of graduate school and obtained EMT and paramedic skills. Upon his retirement, he attended Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. He completed his Masters of Divinity in 2012 and was ordained to the transitional Diaconate.

In the winter of 2013 he was ordained to the priesthood. Fr. David says he had no “burning bush experiences” but always knew his life would be serving the church. The Rule of Benedict and the Anglican Daily Office provide his spiritual discipline. His relationship with God “is grounded in prayer and study, remembering that God is gracious, merciful and caring. Believing that people are created in God’s image means that God is good. There is no place I can go where God is not!” *Welcome, Fr. David, to our WSHS/WBHS Community!*



Fr. Harry Firth with Fr. David Lynch



Sr. Dorothy Cecilia, Fr. Harry, Bonnie Mathews, Fr. David, Sr. Nancy Clare, Sr. Nancy Teresa after the Admission Service



HAITI

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**HAITI MISSION REPORT**

As we continue to pray for our Haitian Sisters and Brothers, let us remember that our continued support of them helps to keep diseases such as cholera at bay in their country.

In the month of February, four cases of water tablets were shipped to Haiti. I am so pleased that we are able to ship out tablets on a monthly basis, as long as funds are readily available.

As usual, I thank all of our Community, other individuals, churches and Communities for their generous donations in caring for our Haitian families.

Sr. Betty-Lou is a joy to all of us in sending the tablets in a speedy and organized manner. Thank you!!!!!!

As we look forward to Retreat in May, let us pray for safe travels to and from for everyone.

*In His Name,  
Sr. Alexandra Francis*




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**FROM YOUR DIRECTORS**

**IMPORTANT: HOWARD MC CLENDON, COMPANION, NEEDS YOUR RETREAT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES NOW. This includes car or airplane.**

Please call (601-467-7628) or  
Email him at [hmccleendon@gmail.com](mailto:hmccleendon@gmail.com)

Please make sure all information about your travel plans, car or plane (arrival day and approximate time as well as your departure time) gets to Howard. For those who are flying, Howard will attempt to help you "buddy up" with others who may arrive or depart from the airport at similar times and hopefully save you money on the shuttle fare.

**RETREAT 2018 LOCATION:  
Mercy Center – Phone 314.966.4686  
2039 North Geyer Road  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3399**

Phone: Sr. Lucia 208-866-5812

**CONGRATULATION CARDS AND NOTES MAY BE SENT TO:**

**Sr. Lucia, WSHS  
1700 S Goldsmith Avenue  
Meridian, Idaho 83642-6698**

At Retreat 2018, **GENTLY USED WSHS/WBHS CLOTHING** such as T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, and Sweatshirts will be available for a donation. All monies received will go toward purchasing water purification tablets for Haiti.

**CLUSTER LEADERS** – Please bring your banners.

**FOR THOSE NOT ATTENDING RETREAT**

Please continue to pray during the days from May 3-6 for safe travel, protection, wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for those of us at Retreat. Know that those of us at Retreat will be praying for you during this time.



**COMMUNION OF SAINTS**



**Sylvia W. Bargiel** of Port Huron died Tuesday, February 13, 2018 after a short illness. She was born March 15, 1934 in Port Huron and was a lifelong resident. Sylvia was an English Professor at St. Clair County Community College for several years. She enjoyed music and was a member of the Port Huron Musicale and the International Symphony Orchestra. She was also a gifted poet. Sylvia was active at Grace Episcopal Church and was a Lay Worker in the Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit. She became a Lay Worker in 2003.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at Grace Episcopal Church. Sr. Julie Margaret, Sr. Barbara Rebecca, Sr. Janet Rose and Glenn Risse, Companion attended the service.

Sr. Julie Margaret remembered that Sylvia's monthly letters were always fun to get and often included a poem she had written. She was dedicated to WSHS. According to Sr. Julie, if Sylvia received her monthly bulletin on a Tuesday, her monthly letter was completed and sent to her cluster leader by Thursday.

Sylvia is survived by her daughter, Rev. Mary Bargiel, two grandchildren, Katelyn and Benjamin Spiegelberg, cousins, Sandra (Duane) Tulloch and Dr. William Acres, and special friends, Nancy, Linda, and Ace, and many other friends. She was preceded in death by a brother, Dwight, and a cousin, Jane Mary Acres.



## SPIRITUAL SHARING

Prior to Dec. 2013, I was much more dedicated to concentrating on WSHS and thought less of myself. I was much more engaged. When I got sick with multiple problems, it was a shock to my whole self and my ability to keep up with the responsibilities that I had taken on at home, with community and my ministry. I have improved since then, but I remain limited energy wise. I don't like thinking, much less being too pre-occupied with self and not my commitments. I am hoping that I will continue to stabilize so as to do the Lord's work. I have prayed to feel God's presence in my life and the world. I know God exists in every beautiful thing in life and people. The community gives me hope and reading the bulletin consoles me that I am not alone in my struggles. I love the candidness of the contributors.

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My view of the world is troubled, unsure and at times fearful. I see where evil has taken over in so many areas and it scares me. I continue to believe what my heart tells me, "that Good will always be stronger/overcome than evil". (Gandhi said that.) I pray that the God inspired people and, especially our leaders world-wide, will be influenced by what is God-like and act accordingly for those who put them in the position they hold. "God be with us."

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Regarding our community rule, I try to make our monthly meetings. Daily prayer is part of my life. I seek silence and solitude whenever I can and I treasure it. Communal prayer takes place at our monthly meetings. Scripture reading needs to be improved upon by me. Prayer three times daily is what I have been doing all along. I love to participate in the Eucharist as often as possible. We live 45 minutes from church since we moved, and bad weather or me being tired, has caused us to miss a few services. With spring on its way, it will make it easier. My husband and I try to go out into the world to serve God with gladness.

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I'm glad you quoted from the actual rule of Benedict because it gives everyone the same starting point. Reading ancient texts can sometimes "put us off" as we don't view the world from the same viewpoint today as in Benedict's time. What he said is in this quote I found valuable:

*The texts that at first appear unattractive are often the ones that will most repay the effort to understand them. The argument or example that seems irrelevant, trivial or boring is precisely the one most likely to be the sign of what is outside of one's framework and which calls it into question.*

I think when I encountered this comment I realized that I often do have a way of reading something from another era and dismissing those parts that are "hard" for me to accept.

\*\*\*\*\*

That first step, when I began to work towards humility, came with my introduction years ago to the 12 step program through my Alanon membership. The 2nd step - “Came to believe that a power greater than myself could restore me to sanity.” It was the first time I internalized and tried to practice the concept of “letting go and letting God”. I also learned that words alone won’t change me. It is letting the words become reality with myself. I think all of life can be a means to learn humility if we but let what happens in our life, all of our life, teach us. I’m not always able to do that. I agree with you when you wrote that to start we need to listen and wait. I can’t listen when I’m running around trying to do it all myself, or trying to get someone else to do what I want done. It can be a short slip from that to forgetting that God is always present, always loving, but always observing. The formation in this Community has exposed me to all kinds of tools for prayer and silence and I am thankful for all that I have been given and shown. The ongoing formation now seems to come from everywhere. I have learned that there is an opportunity to learn from every encounter in my life, and in the absence also if I but take time to stop and rest and listen with the ear of my heart.

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The Community practices which nourish my reverence for God are the daily prayers, the yellow letters and the reading of scripture.

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I am very grateful for our Community. I was very moved by Sr. Christine’s sharing that she knew being with our Community was where she needed to be. Although I wasn’t there, my love would have been included. I have stayed with very wonderful people when I have come to Retreat. I have had a lot of fun and have had my confidence strengthened. It is always good to belong and I love being a Cluster Leader.

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The part of the Men’s Retreat, that our church held, that I enjoyed the most, were the Morning Prayer sessions led by a talented intercessory prayer leader. It was very similar in its intent to our healing service at our annual retreat in St. Louis. In these sessions men raised joys and concerns that they were experiencing in their lives. These sessions were so popular that they are going to be continued once a month back at our church.

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My ministry is not as obvious as it was when I was ministering in ICU every day. I am trying to see everything as ministry.

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Each year I become stronger in accepting that the past is done — only today and tomorrow really matter. In the past, I have struggled very hard to succeed and make a difference and it is humbling to accept what is behind me. I can look forward to new successes each day, only along a separate path - one where I really find happiness. The Community has built my confidence that I am loved, I am here for a reason and I have purpose designed by God.

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I have a new understanding of my reaction to servitude and God put me to the test at the Communion rail this morning. There was a very elderly man beside me at the Communion rail and he could not get up because his foot had come out of his shoe, it had become twisted and he was half way up and couldn’t go down. I knelt down in front of the communion rail, sorted out his shoe, put it back on and helped him to his feet. My surprise was beautiful as I was happy to be on the floor, and he was so peacefully grateful. I could almost hear God saying “that wasn’t so difficult now was it”.

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For years I have tried “to take my eyes off myself and onto God”. When I began to go to Retreat it has been easier to deal with. The Taize service helps a lot. The teaching over the years has been excellent. The sharing with others of faith has been good. The overall atmosphere at the Retreat Centers has also been helpful.

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It has been helpful recognizing God’s presence in my life by knowing that so many others are also touched by God and do not mind sharing their experiences.

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The Community practices that nourish our reverence of God are the daily services that we attend at Retreat, the prayers given throughout the day, and the love given to each of us as we reach out to each other.

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At home our nourishment comes from daily prayer and Bible study which we share in together, our weekly Church Service, our Ultrea meetings, and our OSL meetings, and my time spent reading the book “The Rule of Benedict” by Joan Chittister.

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I have felt a little sorry for myself because of some circumstances at home and with my financial situation. Our Community has helped me over the years by giving me opportunities to mentor others. This helped them with their relationship with God, as they told me, and helped me with my feeling of self-worth. I am not surprised that God has given me another avenue during this Lenten Season to keep my eyes on Him, even through all of my problems.

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I thought that my life was “drifting away from me” and that I was having a nervous breakdown that was not going to end. Our Community gave me a better focus.

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One of my closest experiences was when I was invested as a Sister. I felt closer to God than when I graduated from college. I have seen God’s presence in the world. I feel that He is looking for my hands to be more involved than they have been.

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The Annual Retreat is the most outstanding event in WSHS/WBHS, but the monthly Bulletin and Corporate Communion cannot be underestimated.

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To see God as Protector, influencer and pursuer rather than the dominator, vanquisher and avenger changes the way we see our roles as God’s agent on earth, and how we live out Christ’s mission. Being transformed into His likeness finds us becoming more receptive, more available and stronger but in a very deep and humble subtle way.

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My life in the community helps me to remember that I have someone I can lean on and I can trust to support me and guide me without judgment. The community gives us a common understanding and commitment to which we can return and re-center. I never feel alone in my spiritual crises knowing that my mentor is just a phone call or event away. The more I practice re-centering to a God filled space and pulling myself away from self-will (first by recognizing it) the more natural it feels. I do not believe that I could do it alone.

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For months I have prayed about, and pondered, my focus for involvement in a social justice group/issue. In the last month I have been able to attend Corrections Day at the Capital, an important meeting of Mission to abolish the Death Penalty, I had a very long lunch with an attorney who has deserted her practice to assist those who have been wrongfully convicted. I have been very inspired.

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I also believe that God is leading me to a new job and I am working on being non-resistant, abstaining from grief and resentment. I have decreased activities and increased my private time - and, for me, this is scary! My mind and heart are more peaceful, and I will need to keep strengthening this special skill.




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## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

### Peace By Sr. Alison Constance

*The Fruit of the Spirit is one part of our fourfold commitment as Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit. This month Sr. Alison Constance reflects on the third Fruit of the Spirit: Peace. At a Retreat several years ago, the Community decided on a fruit symbol to go with each Fruit of the Spirit. After reading this article, reflect on what fruit best symbolizes for you this Fruit of the Spirit: Peace.*

In today's world of constant conflict it seems impossible to find peace. Even the peace of our inner self is difficult when we are bombarded with the hatefulness that the world throws at us. So how do we find peace?

Those who trust God (Isa 26:3), and hope (Isa 52:7) in the salvation, have everlasting peace (Isa 2:4). So is it as easy as just trusting in God? Maybe but even that is not easy. Inner peace is what we need to strive for as a beginning of the fruit of peace. In order to find peace we must not just learn to trust God but to trust ourselves. Through prayer, meditation and letting go of hate and prejudice we will find true peace.

We must let go of our self-righteousness and hate of others who do not believe as we do. We must stop judging others. Our world around us shows us the opposite of this everyday as we see others standing their ground and not listening with love. The words of Martin Luther King may be talking about the different denominations within the church but it goes just as well with the political world around us.

*“The tragedy is not merely that you have such a multiplicity of denominations but that many groups claim to possess absolute truth. Such narrow sectarianism destroys the unity of the Body of Christ. God transcends our denominations” (Martin Luther King 1963, pg 141)*

So what must we do to find peace? Love God, love ourselves and love others unquestionably. Not so easy but doable with the help of God's love.



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

### Rung Three: Obedience / Submission to God

By

Sr. Helen Joseph, WSHS



*Our ultimate goal is this: to forget ourselves.  
To be satisfied in life  
We must transcend the desire for satisfaction.  
We must cast off our own appetites.  
We must free ourselves from our own self-centeredness  
In order to accomplish this,  
We must practice obedience.*

*John McQuiston  
"Always We Begin Again"*

How does one understand the word Obedience? Before looking up the definition in a dictionary the word obedience evoked, for me, these understandings. Obedience School is for our dogs where we take them to better control their behaviour and train them to be "good" dogs. We've grown up with "be obedient at school listen to your teacher," an attempt to rein in the spontaneous activity and imagination of a child who doesn't want to sit in a chair for two hours. The church preaches obedience in order for us to better live a life of Christ. Obedience, a word that can conjure up negative emotions in some of us, rebellion in others, and despair and guilt in others in not being able to attain in life what we think we need to attain.

*Dictionary definition: (From the English Oxford Living Dictionaries)*

1. Compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority. 'Children were taught to show their parents obedience'; 'obedience to moral standards'. 2. Observance of a monastic rule. 'Vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience'

*From Dictionary.com*

1. The state or quality of being obedient. 2. The act or practice of obeying; dutiful or submissive compliance: Military service demands obedience from its members. 3. A sphere of authority or jurisdiction, especially ecclesiastical. 4. Chiefly Ecclesiastical. a. Conformity to a monastic rule or the authority of a religious superior, especially on the part of one who has vowed such conformance. b. The rule or authority that exacts such conformance.

Unfortunately the dictionary definitions of Obedience don't really explain what it means to be obedient. I just get this sense that I have to do as I'm told. There has to be more to it than that.

When I dwell upon what I understand the teachings of Christ to be, I come away with his teaching of love. Love for God, love for creation, love for others and love for self. So at this point in time, in the universe, I understand obedience to include faith and love. If I am to live in obedience to Christ's teachings I need to love creation (not too difficult), to love God even though I don't understand who or what God truly is, (requires trust and faith), to love others regardless of who they are, and to love myself (both difficult at times but possible with God's help). I need to be truthful to myself, to acknowledge that I can do none of this on my own or through my own will.

Stephen J. Hulshizer in his book *"Obedience: The Key to Our Problems"* wrote this:

"In Scripture there are several different words used for obedience. In order to establish the principal meaning of these words in our minds, we will look at two of them briefly.

**Shama:** This Hebrew word is the primary one used throughout the Old Testament. The word has, as its primary root, the meaning, "to hear intelligently." Please note the word 'hear.' It is central to the meaning.

**Hupakouo:** This Greek word is used widely throughout the New Testament. The word is really made up of two words: hupo – meaning under or beneath, and akouo – meaning to hear. Thus the meaning of the word could be stated as, "to hear under." It carried with it the thought of subordination, or the recognition of authority and wisdom. It is an attitude of hearing."

I like that definition; one of "hearing", hearing with the ears of one's heart.

He went on to explain the difference between Obedience, Legalism and Conformity which I found very helpful in understanding Obedience.

“Obedience is an attitude of heart toward a higher authority. As Christians, that higher authority is God Himself. The Lord said in John 14:15, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.” It also deals with the individual’s own attitude toward God.

Legalism, on the other hand, places the commandment above the commander. It places the emphasis on the law itself, and the keeping of it for law’s sake, rather than to the glory of its Giver. Those who are legalistic also tend to look at the activities of others rather than their own heart (attitude). We must realize that obedience is something we will want to question our own hearts about.

Conformity deals with the outside of a man. Many conform to laws outwardly in fear of reprisal; however their attitude is certainly not one of obedience. We have all probably driven our cars at the speed limit in fear of a fine, however in our hearts we would prefer to be going at a higher speed. Conformity to a law may be a means of avoiding punishment; however the peace and joy that comes from obedience is not there.”

To be obedient to something, we need to totally believe in it, to put that something before ourselves, to have an attitude of the heart. “Obedience, in other words, lies in listening and in labouring and in knowing what is required of us.” (Joan Chittister, OSB *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*)

When we are obedient we are, in fact, trusting in the authority of another. Esther DeWaal notes in her book *Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict*, “... obedience is a risky business. It is much easier to talk about it than to act it out. It means being prepared to take my life in my hands and place it in the hands of God.” We put God at the centre of our life.

And so we look at our own Obedience. For the purposes of this article I want to look at our Obedience as it pertains to the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit and our *Rule of Life*.

Obedience speaks to all of us, from the members of the Board of Directors, to Chapter, to the newest Applicant. We might start by asking ourselves, “Why do we belong to this Community?” because in belonging we must have decided at some point in time that this was a way for us as individuals to seek more, grow more and be more. Whatever your answer is to that question, the reality comes down to this: as members of this Community we accept and believe certain things. We follow a specific *Rule of Life*, we believe in this Community to help us fulfill whatever it is we spiritually need. But Community isn’t a being. Community wouldn’t exist if it weren’t for the many who make up Community. Community only lives if we, the members, are obedient to those things that make it work. Our founder, Sr. Angela, modeled this Community after St. Benedict’s vision of Community and our *Rule of Life* reflects those qualities that St. Benedict taught in his Rule.

The first step of humility is unhesitating obedience, which comes naturally to those who cherish Christ above all. ...Such people as these immediately put aside their own concerns, abandon their own will and lay down whatever they have in hand, leaving it unfinished. With the ready step of obedience, they follow the voice of authority in their actions. RB5

Joan Chittister brings up a good question in her writings on Obedience. She writes:

“How is it that a rule that purports to deal with the spiritual life can possibly put so much stock in the human dimensions of community?”

Her answer is equally enlightening,

“The answer, of course, is that the human is the only place we can really be sure that God is. It is so easy to love the God we do not see but it is so much more sanctifying to serve the God we learn to see in others.”

Love allows us to open ourselves to God and to others. We do not have to walk this life alone. Community gives us this gift, not just a *Rule of Life* but people who listen to each other.

St. Benedict emphasized that obedience must be given gladly and wholeheartedly. He cautioned about the practice of grumbling, which defeats obedience and becomes compliance, which in Jane Tomaine’s words is “not only injurious to one’s soul and spiritual life but also injurious to community.” St. Benedict saw the need to be flexible in order to meet the needs and circumstances for individual growth. Sr. Angela always emphasized that our *Rule of Life* is a guideline. We need the Rule but we also need those around us to help us live the Rule.

Sr. Angela wrote this in our Community Rule of Life:

“Benedict believed that humility is the key to obedience. Self-will and obedience are often in conflict. Our acceptance of the *Rule of Life* signifies that we place ourselves under the direction of the leaders appointed and chosen by our Community. Obedience needs to be practiced by every member of the Community.

*Obedience is a blessing to be shown by all not only to the Abbot but also to one another as (brothers and sisters) since we know that it is by way of obedience that we go to God RB71:1*

As a Community, we also seek to be obedient. Discerning and understanding God’s will in the context of Community is done by responsible praying, listening, speaking, reflecting, and then, more listening. We endeavour to carry out God’s direction through consensus, where possible, and by seeking the counsel of one another. Growth in obedience brings our Community into a greater oneness with each other and unity in Christ.”

Each one of us, whether Applicant, Lay Worker, Lay Sister, Lay Brother, Companion or Friend made a commitment to this Community. All of us struggle with obedience. Isn’t it good to know that we have God and each other to help us in our struggle, to keep us in prayer, offer guidance, to listen, and to affirm us. Through obedience to God we become free.

**Sources:**

*Obedience: The Key to Our Problems* by Stephen J. Hulshizer. Believers Bookshelf, Sunbury, PA.

*The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century* by Joan Chittister OSB

*Wisdom Distilled from the Daily* by Joan Chittister

*St. Benedict’s Toolbox* by Jane Tomaine

*Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict* by Esther de Waal

*The Rule of the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit*

**Questions**

1. Being in community calls us into obedience – loving accountability – how has your experience of community affected your understanding of obedience?
2. Through the ups and downs of your journey of obedience how has the community held you and strengthened you?
3. Take some time to review the commitments you made to WSHS/WBHS at your admission service as a Companion or Friend. How do you see obedience fitting in to those commitments?
4. Re-read Sr. Angela's words on Obedience in *The Rule of the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit* or Tenet V A (Obedience and Humility) in the *Personal Rule for Sisters and Brothers*. Reflect upon your own practice of obedience within the Community and your own personal life.

*THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*

*SERVICE OF ADMISSION  
FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018*

*Admission of Lay Worker*



Melissa Bowers, WSHS

*Admission of Companion*



Leticia Guevara-Cuence

*Your Prayers are Requested*