

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



RUNG EIGHT
BE ACCOUNTABLE
September 2018

Bulletin Cover: Photo by Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS

Sr. Nancy took this photo on one of her walks near her home. It is in the middle of the city of Overland Park Kansas.

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.

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 –

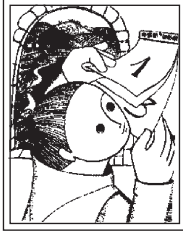
Check contributions to the Haiti Clean Water Project may be mailed to Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS, 7711 E Waverly Street, Tucson, AZ 85715. Please make your check payable to Alexandra Zarris. Put “WSHS Haiti Clean Water” in the memo line.

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, www.workerbrothers.org

THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
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CORPORATE COMMUNIONS SEPTEMBER 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
Sr. Barbara Veronica, WBHS
Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS
Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS

CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2018

September 22 • October 27 • November 17 • December 8

***CHAPTER 2018 – October 25 - 28, 2018
Conception Abbey, Conception, 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:

The Rev. Ron Spencer, Comp., WSHS

3191 Hunting Creek Road
Huntingtown, MD 20639

Sue Jensen Serio, Friend, WSHS

4811 3 Oaks Road
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Delete the home phone number and the email address.

Lida McCulloch, Friend, WSHS

300 W. Airport Drive, Apt 122
Carthage, MO 64836

Barbara Richards' email address is:

blrichards49@yahoo.com



HAITI

From Sr. Alexandra Francis: Let us continue to keep our Haitian Sisters and Brothers in our thoughts; praying that they are supplied with clean water and protected from cholera and other diseases. The children need our loving prayers to keep them safe from harm.

From Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley: Here are the first of a few photos from the Haiti presentation at our Vacation Bible School at All Saints' Anglican Church, Huntsville, Ontario. I was so pleased to be asked to present. All Saints' Huntsville has consistently shown unsolicited interest in our Haiti Outreach program; now the vacation Bible School and the "Kid to Kid" program raised funds for clean water tablets. There were 9 to 11 children, ages 5 to 11 years old, and some parents. Their theme was "Jesus Rescues" and they had a ship wreck decor. The children donated Toonies (which is a \$2 Canadian coin) for tablets. A very interactive presentation; all of the children had fun!

We wanted the children to experience what it is like to carry water for distances in the heat. A few tried to lift a 20 liter pail and imagine carrying it for long distances, in the heat and waiting in line. The children had fun but we had to ensure their safety and pretend. Although the buckets are light with smiley faces; they did get an appreciation of the reality. Nobody took me up on an offer to drink the contaminated muddy water! *(See more photos on next page.)*



From Br. Frantz Benedict (Fan Fan):

8/6: Thank you for the photos of the kids attending the show. May God bless their hearts. It is effectively the hurricane season in Haiti. It is raining a lot and the pipes are leaky. So our citizens are still in danger to get diarrhea or cholera.

8/6: It is amazing and wise from you to get the children simulate this action of women in Haiti. I have tried several times but I don't have their skill. For how long your kids kept it on their heads? If you see these kids again, please tell them we love them and they are in my prayers. School is in vacation in Haiti now. I have three kids who are in my house for vacation. They are really active.

8/8: The water project is in good health. It often happens that new people come to me and ask for aqua tabs. While I am serving I try to keep schools and suburb area as priority of our ministry.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, HUNTSVILLE - THEME "JESUS SAVES" CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN OUR HAITI WATER PROJECT



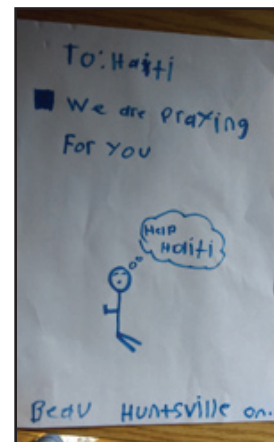
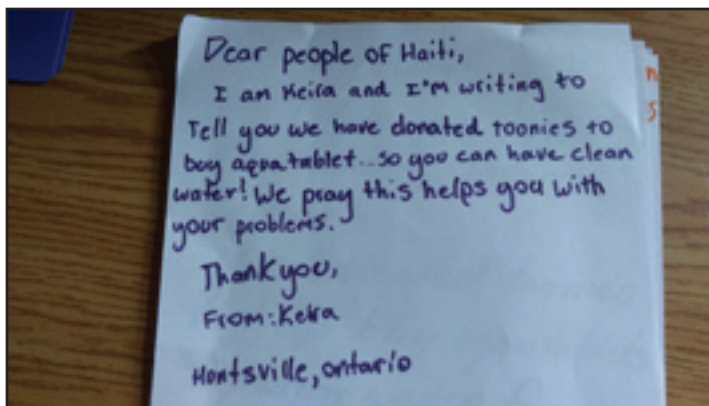
The children learn where Haiti is on the globe and the water conditions in that country.



A big HELLO to the children of Haiti from Huntsville, Ontario



A recent shipment of Aqua Tabs arrives in Haiti



A GREAT BIG thank you to the children of All Saints, Huntsville & Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley, WSHS



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I have never had my feet washed on Maundy Thursday. It's not because it was not available, but because I felt awkward doing it.

I know that all the things I do to help my husband, at this point, irritates me at times. I try to focus on how much I love him and he needs my help without a complaint. I do not feel pride in what I am doing, because I know that I would not have it any other way. Sometimes I think that he does not appreciate what I do for him. It's then I remember that I don't do it for his thanks, but because he needs my help. I might be a "doormat", but if an action is done not only out of duty but out of love, then I am no longer a doormat, but a responder to a need out of love and care.

I think that the "sacred in the ordinary" can be anything that we do in love and care for someone else. Serenity is the result of "love and caring". I feel I am doing what God would have me do, and that gives me the "peace that passes all understanding."

I love the foot washing service on Maundy Thursday. I am usually the Eucharistic Minister, and I get to do my fair share of washing. I love this. It is very personal and intimate between the washer and the receiver. I can see how it builds community. I also have a client that needs to have her ped socks put on her each day. This feeling is totally different. I think it is because she would not need them if she would follow the Dr.'s orders. I find I quite resent having to do this.

I usually feel a rush of satisfaction when I complete a job. If it has been difficult, I usually stop to give thanks to God for His help. A long time ago, I read a book on Celtic Prayer. It explained that there is a prayer for everything, no matter how insignificant. I have tried to incorporate the practice into my life each day. It is surprising how much more aware you can become of all of God's gifts. It's thanking God for the floors that I must wash, while others have no floors, etc.

I have trouble with equating being a "doormat" to serenity. In my mind, being a doormat is allowing others to walk over you again and again. Serenity, on the other hand, comes from finding peace, even in adversity.

Humility through Obedience — We all owe obedience to our jobs, families, friends and communities. It is also important to be obedient to ourselves. Only when we follow what we know to be right, no matter how hard, we can be at peace within ourselves.

I really liked going to confession when I was a Catholic. After Vatican II confession changed to a person going into a room and sat in a chair face to face with the priest. It was as if you were having a chat, which you were, but it was about your sinful tendencies and not about the weather. So instead of something to be ashamed of, it was a wonderfully honest cleansing. The penitent learns that the priest is a fellow traveler and not a holier-than-thou master of a spotless spiritual life.

In the last year, through our church women's retreat and our Community Healing Service at Retreat, I was able to be open and discuss my past. I shared the hurt I've experienced in my Packet work, and now I'm experiencing a freedom within — a "lightness" because everyone now knows me for who I am. Nothing is hidden or covered up. I am free to openly give and receive love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

By striving to follow the Rules of the Community, the Holy Spirit is awakening in me the freedom to feel the beauty of the Fruits of the Spirit. By being free to demonstrate and share these gifts, my life is so much more meaningful.

Our spiritual journeys are strange wanderings in and out of union and true relationship with God. I feel very blessed that WSHS has been with me through the roads and crossroads my life has taken. Even when I didn't always acknowledge God's presence, I can see the "God thread" throughout it all.

This is such a good quiet time away from all the responsibilities of home. Time to rest, reflect and pray. The quiet sound of the wind blowing through the aspens is a delight for the senses. I feel as though God is whispering to me to enjoy the presence and relax into the arms of Jesus.

I am grateful for our theme this year! Humility is such an important quality for genuine spiritual growth. It makes me more compassionate, more patient, more loving, more approachable and less judgmental. I liked Sr. Lucia's exploration of the theme of "being a doormat." I found her use of the word serenity very helpful. Another word which I have come across in a book by Michael Casey called *Living into the Truth*, is the word contentment. Casey wrote: "The most important element of the 6th step of humility is not the lowly status of the monk, but his contentment." It's not about being abased; it's about being content in all things that God puts in our way.



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



The fruit of the Spirit: Faith

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 Fruit of the Spirit, Faith. 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, Faith.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the convictions of things not seen”
(Heb. 11:1)

How do we follow someone we’ve never seen? That is a question many of ask ourselves. Our heart tells us it is real but our brains sometimes get in the way and we lose some of that faith. It can be hard to hold onto it when we are hurting or looking at what is happening in the world around us.

These are the times faith is so important. We must cling to Jesus and know that he is with us when we are at our worst or even when we are at our best. He lives in our heart and all we have to do is let us feel him and his love. This is not an easy task for some.

I don’t know many who at one time or another did not have doubts. Even the apostles had doubt and they were with Jesus and saw all the miracles and heard his words first hand. If they had doubts then we know that we are forgiven when those doubts come to us.

Once faith takes hold in its truest form we feel a sense of peace. We still have troubles but we hold them up to Jesus and he helps take the burden. Our world will never be perfect but then neither are we. So we must trust that God has a plan for us and that on that day all will be right again.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

RUNG EIGHT: Be Accountable

By
Sr. Christine, WSHS



The eighth step of humility is to obey the common rule of the monastery. We do this by doing nothing except what is sanctioned by the rule and example of the elders.

Benedict assumed accountability to be one of the necessary practices for Christian Formation. The eighth step of humility holds us accountable to Christ, to scripture and to wise spiritual mentors, whose example we can follow as we mature in the Lord.

At our 2017 Chapter Quiet Day, we reflected that this eighth degree of humility reminds us that Benedictine spirituality depends on our being willing to listen and to learn from what perennially has been found to be true. We learn that Community itself is a source of wisdom for us, that major relationships of our lives have not been given to us to be exploited by us; they have been given to us to teach us. We learn at every stage of life from those who have gone before us. We are to learn from what has been found trustworthy by others instead

of reinventing every wheel. We learn we are not the center of the universe and there is plenty to gain from others at every age.

Sr. Angela stressed the importance of Christian Formation in our Community Rule and saw our small groups/clusters, monthly bulletins and monthly letters as keys to our becoming better acquainted, to learning from one other and staying accountable to each another. Clusters, monthly bulletins and monthly letters are ways to help bridge the gap of geographical distances when we open ourselves to doing what we are asked to do.

Companions are given similar opportunities and are expected to be in communication with the Coordinator of Companions and Friends at least yearly when they respond to the annual Pentecost letter.

The value of our communication is to help all members recognize the importance of being attentive and faithful to their own spiritual journey. As we strive to be accountable in living out our four-fold commitment, we will see more clearly how the Lord is working in our daily lives to help us mature in the Lord.

Questions for Reflection

1. How has being accountable to the Community Rule helped you to realize you are not the center of the universe?
2. What do you appreciate about the Community being a source of wisdom for you?
3. What Community practices encourage the awareness and use of the community as wisdom for continued growth in Christ-likeness?