

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



שלום

JEWISH KEYS TO THE SPIRITUALITY OF CHRIST

Traveling the Road with Rabbi Jesus

January 2019

Bulletin Cover:



Peace be with You

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
Web Addresses: workersisters.org workerbrothers.org

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CORPORATE COMMUNIONS JANUARY 2019

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
Illinois USA

Br. David, WBHS
Sr. Julie Margaret, WSHS
Sr. Dorothy Cecilia, WSHS
James Easter, WBHS
Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS
Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS
Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2019

January 26 • February 23 • March 23 • April 13 • May 18
June 22 • July 27 • August 24 • September 28 • October 26 • November 23 • December 14

RETREAT 2019 – April 11 - 14, 2019

The Glory of Israel: Jewish Keys to the Spirituality of Christ
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:

Please add Apt 107 to Larry Snelson's address:

Larry Snelson, Worker Applicant, WBHS

730 Line St. Extension Apt. 107

Greer, South Carolina 29651

Cell Phone: 864-546-2543

Email: larry.snelson1@gmail.com

Birthday: October 15

Sr. Susan Gabriel has a new address:

27112 Nature View Street

Leesburg, Florida 34748

Her phone and email address have not changed.

Congratulations to Letty Guevara-Cuence, Companion, WSHS!

She was ordained a deacon on December 15 at The Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta.





HAITI

As we celebrate Epiphany, let us give thanks for all the gifts that God has give us. We give thanks for our Sisters and Brothers in Haiti. We pray for Br. Frantz Benedict and his team as they distribute the water tablets to all their people. This Mission is a blessing for all of us.

We were able to send one case of water tablets to Haiti in the month of November. We thank all the members of our Community for all that they do to support us in continuing our Mission. We also thank members of other parishes.

On Sunday November 11, 2018, Ginny Berkey, Lay Worker, presented information about our Haiti water mission to her church, Christ the King Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona. It was for their outreach programs. She presented during their announcements and I was introduced as the Coordinator of the Haiti Water Tablet program. Her report was as follows:

Good morning. For those who do not know me, I am Ginny Berkey and a member of the canonically recognized Worker Sisters and Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit. Our outreach for the last 11 plus years has been to the country of Haiti.

Haiti is a very poor country both politically and economically. Earthquakes and hurricanes are an ongoing issue to add to their concerns. Some statistics on their water issues are: less than half of Haitians in rural areas have access to clean water and diseases like cholera are spread through contaminated water. Only 24% of Haitians have toilets, and for water/sanitation they rely extensively on external financial assistance. One out of nine children in Haiti dies before the age of 5 from diseases that plague Haiti.

Fr. Franz Benedict, also a brother of WBHS, coordinates our water purification tablets distribution at the cathedral in Port Au Prince. Quilts are also made for the children's hospital. The Cathedral school has special isolation rooms for children who show symptoms of illness at school. Water tablets cost \$6.50 per month for a family of four.

The Community Coordinator for this WSHS project is Sr. Alexandra Francis who lives in Tucson and attends Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Sr. Alexandra Francis collects the donations. We order the tablets through an organization in Canada as they are less expensive and easier to get through Haitian customs. If you would wish to contribute, I will have the information in the atrium after the service.



FROM YOUR CO-DIRECTORS

A bright New Year and we pray it is one full of joy, happiness and health for all of you!!

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - Jewish Keys to the Spirituality of Christ

Our Retreat Presenter, Carl McColman, gave us a list of suggested reading that relates to our theme for this year. Consider reading one or two of the following as we travel this special road.

Amy-Jill Levine, *The Misunderstood Jew*.

Amy-Jill Levine. *Short Stories by Jesus*.

Amy-Jill Levine, Editor. *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*.

Rabbi Evan Moffic. *What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Jewishness of Jesus*.

John Shelby Spong. *Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes*.

Lois Tverberg. *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus*.

Lois Tverberg. *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus*.

Lois Tverberg. *Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus*.

Rabbi David Zaslow. *Jesus, First Century Rabbi*.

Mary Christine Athans. *In Quest of the Jewish Mary*.

The following books are general introductions to Jewish spirituality:

Rabbi Wayne Dosick. *Living Judaism: The Complete Guide to Jewish Belief, Tradition, and Practice.*

Abraham Joshua Heschel. *The Sabbath.*

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. *Jewish Spirituality: A Brief Introduction for Christians.*

RETREAT BROCHURE 2019

Retreat Brochures will be mailed to you shortly. Please read the Brochure carefully and make your plans to join other Sisters, Brothers, Workers, Companions and Friends at Retreat.

The registration form is the last page of the Retreat Brochure. Please note the registration deadlines!

COMMUNITY RULE REMINDER

The Prologue of **The Rule of the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit** states:

We, the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit, hold as essential to our Rule, Mission, and Life together a fourfold commitment:

To Jesus Christ – Abide in me and I in you. (John 15:4)

To the Fruit of the Spirit – As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. (John 15:4)

To Mission – You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit. (John 15:16)

To Ministry – You who believe in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will you do... (John 14:12)

The **monthly letter** encourages us to reflect on how our fourfold commitment is influencing our daily life. It also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the theme questions included in the Bulletin. This year, may we each continue to explore this challenge to think and pray about our spiritual journey, and then share some of our reflections in our monthly letters.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

The Glory of Israel: Jewish Keys to the Spirituality of Christ

By

Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS



Each January we undertake a new study and I believe we will find this one not only interesting but it will also give us a good opportunity to grow as we look deeper into the life of our Lord Jesus.

As some of you know, my late husband was an Episcopal priest. He felt “the Call” after thirteen years of serving in the Marine Corps and being stationed in the South Pacific at the beginning of the Vietnam War. This call to the priesthood would result in a total life change for us. We were settled in our life in North Carolina and had two children. It was not an easy decision when one is nearly 40, but the major move worked out. We sold our home, pulled up stakes and moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

While this sounds simple, it was not. There were many adjustments as I became the breadwinner, living off of Bill’s educational VA assistance and raising two school age children. We made that transition fairly well but then there was the change of “being a student” after many years of being out of school. I well remember the chaplain at Virginia Theological Seminary welcoming us with the words: “Welcome to Seminary, we know you searched your heart before you arrived and are doing this as you know deep inside that there is nothing else you can do.” Those words spoke to all of our hearts and how true they were!

Bill was excited about starting school and did well. One night he came home and shared a statement that his Professor, Chris Bryant, who was Head of Old Testament Studies, made to the class: “You can’t really be a good Christian until you are a good Jew.” It was a bit unsettling as Bill and I never really thought about that. Chris had grown up in England with Jewish roots and had met the risen Lord. He could really speak from both parts of the Bible, Old Testament and New Testament.

As we look at Jesus this year, it may be hard for us to remember that Jesus was born a Jew, lived as a Jew and died as a Jew. Our theme this year is *“The Glory of Israel: Jewish Keys to the Spirituality of Christ”* and together we will explore what that meant to Jesus and how it influenced him.

Jesus was born a Jew and lived as a Jew. Have you ever wondered what life was like for Jesus when he was a child? What prayers would he have learned, what feasts and observances might he have kept? What was the difference between going to the Synagogue and going to the Temple? As we begin to explore the New Testament and the Old Testament, we will see that much of his Jewish heritage is interwoven into his life and teaching.

I decided to study the final statement that Jesus said on the cross: “Into your hands I commit my spirit.” and found that Jesus died with prayer on his lips. The words are from Psalm 31:5 in the Old Testament. According to William Barclay, noted 20th Century theologian, “This prayer is one that every Jewish mother taught her child to say the last thing at night before the threatening dark came down.” It is just like we used to learn “Now I lay me down to sleep.” Then when we look at this sentence in Luke 23:46 in the New Testament, Jesus cries out: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” Barclay reminds us of how “Jesus made it (his cry) even more intimate as he began with the word ‘Father.’” Even on the cross, Jesus died like a child, falling asleep in his Father’s arms.

While there are many verses we can look at regarding the crucifixion, one that caught my eye was from John 19:29 “...A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.” To again quote Barclay, “What is significant about the hyssop plant, a small bush with blue flowers and highly aromatic leaves... hyssop was used to sprinkle blood on the doorposts and lintels on the first Passover. See Exodus 12:22. It is associated with purification and sacrifices in the tabernacle. No doubt John had this in mind when he wrote his gospel.”

As I continued my research, I felt like I was standing by a great treasure trove and realized that the more I read, the deeper the meaning of the words I experienced. I feel like we are standing in front of what we need to know as Christians about this Jewish Jesus in order to understand more fully what he is really saying. Of course, it would take many lifetimes to completely study and understand the scriptures but as we take time to open the enriching history of the Old Testament and interweave that into our understanding of the New Testament, our faith and understanding will increase.

This is exciting to me personally as I think God will bring us to new levels of growth and open new windows for us; we will become aware that often we are missing too much as we read. As the Collect for the third Sunday in November said:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. While we know very little about Jesus as a child, please take time to visualize him as about three to four years old. Is he laughing and playing? Maybe take time to write your feelings as you see him in your mind.
2. We understand that the father would be his first teacher. Joseph would probably be teaching him the alphabet, we know that Jesus could read and write and was well versed in Scripture. Think of Jesus as a school age boy. Remember he has brothers – and sisters they say. Ever wondered how they would get along?
3. Every Jewish boy would learn a trade – for Jesus we know he would become a Carpenter. He would have learned the skills from Joseph. Can you picture Jesus working outside in the shop, in the heat – Jesus indeed knew manual labor.
4. Maybe in your mind you can take some time to watch him at work. Perhaps, he could use a drink of water and to stop and talk to someone. Maybe that could be you.