

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**JESUS IN THE TEMPLE WITH THE ELDERS**  
**March 2019**

Bulletin Cover:

# Jesus in the Temple with the Elders

Internet Photo: Jesus speaks to the learned Pharisees

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**Community Communication Contacts:**

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

**Changes of address, phone numbers, email addresses** - email Sr. Christine [casturges@gmail.com](mailto:casturges@gmail.com) or Sr. Deborah [strdeborah@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Callaghan@aol.com), Sr. Christine [casturges@gmail.com](mailto:casturges@gmail.com) or Sr. Deborah [strdeborah@hotmail.com](mailto: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)**

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## CORPORATE COMMUNIONS MARCH 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  
Sr. Barbara Veronica, WBHS  
Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS  
Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS  
Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

### CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2019

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




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**COMMUNITY CHANGES**

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

Dorothy Stark, Companion, recently suffered a stroke that affected her left side. According to her daughter, she is “very determined & a pleasure to work with” as she gains strength in an Illinois facility near her daughter, Sarah’s, home. Cards and notes are welcome. Please send them to her at the following address:

**Dorothy Stark, Comp, WSHS**  
**C/O Sarah Stark**  
 1370 North Oakmont Road  
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60169



**NEW FRIEND APPLICANT – *Sandra Bowers***

**Sandra Bowers**

528 1st Street  
 Windsor, Colorado 80550  
 Cell Phone: 970-595-0128  
 Email: [sandra.bowers78@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.bowers78@gmail.com)  
 Birthday: July 3

Please welcome Sandra Bowers as a Friend Applicant to WSHS. Sandra grew up on the family farm in western Nebraska. She went to a small country school for the elementary grades and then her family moved to eastern Colorado. Sandra graduated from high school and married her high school sweetheart. They built a home in Berthoud, CO and joined a church that was very important to them. During that time they felt called to the mission field in Central America. As a family (Sandra, her husband and two children) went to the mission field and lived in Central America from 1987 to 1999. Sandra and Wes were married almost 38 years. He died unexpectedly of a heart attack in the summer of 2016. She moved to Windsor in February 2017. Sandra learned about WSHS from Sr. Christine. She will be admitted as a Friend at Retreat 2019.




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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 2019 LOCATION:**  
**Mercy Center – Phone 314.966.4686**  
**2039 North Geyer Road**  
**St. Louis, MO 63131-3399**

**CONGRATULATION CARDS AND NOTES MAY BE SENT TO:**  
**Br. David, WBHS**  
**2170 Preston Road**  
**Cavan Monaghan, Ontario K8J 0G5 CANADA**

At Retreat 2019, **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.

**FOR THOSE NOT ATTENDING RETREAT**

Please continue to pray during the days from April 11-14 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.




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**SPIRITUAL SHARING**

How many people can say that they have dozens of people praying for the them? Not many, I suspect, but members of the WSHS/WBHS — from friends to fully vested Sisters and Brothers — can say that.

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Each day I strive to present a peaceful, welcoming atmosphere, assisting anyone who seeks that, listening to those who need to unload a bit – giving them time.

\*\*\*\*\*

I've enjoyed meeting with 5 ladies from church and helping to plan our Women's Retreat at church. I've been racking my brain for what gift I can contribute to help with the planning. They are all so individually and artistically talented – quilting, painting, bead making, writing, calculating numbers for expenses etc. Then one day I received a beautiful blurb relating to our God given gifts of senses. "Senses" the theme of our Retreat and I can make note cards to hand out.

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The reflection on Christ's life was a thoughtful reminiscence of what I thought His days would have been like. Even though we visualize a more calm, peaceful way of life then, as in any life there had to be trying times, especially as He began presenting himself publicly and establishing a new path to follow. I, later, had a very moving discussion with a friend. We got to discussing what we thought Christ saw as He was dying on the cross. That was quite a stirring topic as we attempted to digest that scenario and what He did for us out of love.

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Laughter: If I didn't find something to laugh about every day, I would go crazy. Laughing about me and light-hearted situations is part of my personality. Sr. Wendy is right. There are Bible readings that have a humorous nature. I am a different person when I get to the Retreats. I am around people who understand me. We can relax and enjoy whatever God had given us for the day.

\*\*\*\*\*

I feel so blessed to learn that the children were taught the same words that Christ used when he was dying on the cross, as their bed-time prayer. They are similar to our "Now I lay me down to sleep" prayer. What a beautiful picture. Instead of torture, rather "Jesus, falling to sleep in His Father's arms."

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The next wonderful surprise was about the hyssop plant. Little attention is given to the fact that it was a hyssop stalk at the crucifixion. Yet the history behind this plant, of its use during the Passover and being associated with purification and sacrifices in the tabernacle, make it such an important connection with Christ being our Messiah.

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I checked out the movie "The Young Messiah". It is all speculation but tries to portray Jesus as a young child, and His gentleness. They imagine that because of His gentle mannerism, He gets bullied when dealing with his peers. The movie is good to just see what His life might have been like, in that particular period of time.

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The theme for February that focuses on the presentation of Jesus in the temple made me wonder today about when I was presented for baptism. As I listened to the baptismal service a few weeks ago I remembered the wonderful response – "I will God being my helper." It reminds me that as I serve God in my little corner of the world, I am supported by God's helper – The Holy Spirit.

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I do see Jesus as a very compassionate child, caring for His friends and even the animals around Him. I also sort of see Him as a very knowledgeable child, who wants so badly to share His God-given understanding. I think He knows from the start of His mission on earth; maybe not of His type of death, but His purpose, as He communicates with God the Father.

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I believe Jesus would have had such a different culture than ours. He was brought up at a time where people more or less stayed where they were born; where they grew up in a neighborhood or village or city from which they never left; where they would have been surrounded by many people like themselves. Their religious values would have been widely believed and accepted and lived out in their daily lives unlike our multi-cultural world today. I think there would have been fewer distractions and a more centered life for Jesus, such as his role in the family, his taking on his father's profession, etc.

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Even as a fully human Jewish child of the times, I somehow think that Jesus found joy in small things and in all whom he met. I believe there was some light from within that was present in him that drew people to him, that made them feel good. I believe joy was present and laughter and fun. And of course, as he was fully human, there had to be little exploits of mischief that made him also fully human. There is something innocent about all very young children that I believe Jesus must have possessed to an even greater degree.

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I believe that he kept his inner joy as he grew because he also grew in faith and knowledge of his loving Father. I can imagine seeing him and delighting in him as a child and I can imagine talking to him and being drawn to him. People today sometimes say, about a child or teen, that he or she has an "old soul". I believe Jesus always had this quality of wisdom beyond his years, and in this case the wisdom that comes from knowing that God the Father loves us unconditionally and that God the Father's Will is always loving and compassionate no matter what the current evil that we see. I go back to what Father Beachy once said, "Jesus was fully human; most of us have not reached that state."



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

### Jesus in the Temple with the Elders

*By*

**Ted Wilson, WBHS**



The account in Luke (Luke 2: 41-52) is the only gospel account in which Jesus is not a baby (the nativity accounts in Matthew and Luke) or an adult (all four gospels). Here he is a 12-year old Jewish boy accompanying his parents, Joseph and Mary, to one of the three annual pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot) held at the Temple in Jerusalem. As one might imagine, thousands of pilgrims came to Jerusalem to attend these festivals, and the festival mentioned in the second chapter of Luke is the Passover. We are all familiar with the story. The Holy Family has discharged its ritual obligations and is heading back to Nazareth. Joseph and Mary assume that their son is in the crowd headed home; however, after a day of not seeing him, they panic

and realize that he must still be back in the Holy City. So they head back to Jerusalem in search of him. After three days of frantic searching, they find him in the Temple, talking to the elders.

Relieved at finally finding him, Mary ponders what to say to her son. Finally, she says something like, “Son, your dad and I were worried sick about you these past couple of days. Whatever were you doing?”

Jesus’ reply sounds rude at best, “Didn’t you know that would be about my Father’s business?”

Here’s where the rub comes. Mary might have thought that the father that her son refers to might be Joseph, but we readers know that Jesus is talking about his other Father, God. In other words, Jesus is learning from folks who should know, the wise men in the Temple — what his mission as Messiah is going to be. And this young twelve-year old apparently impressed the elders with his knowledge of scripture and the ways of God.

Before we go any further, let me add a caveat offered to me (via email) by the New Testament scholar, Amy-Jill Levine (a professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee). Apparently, many people think that Jesus, as a practicing Jewish boy, was in at the Temple in Jerusalem for his bar mitzvah. The fact of the matter is that he wasn’t. In fact, back in Jesus’ time, there was not yet any such thing as a bar mitzvah ceremony, and besides Jesus was not yet 13 years old, the age at which practicing Jewish boys must “come of age” in terms of their religious and adult responsibilities. All that wasn’t yet happening in the time of Jesus.

So here is what I have come to find rather astonishing about Our Lord. He seemed to combine two characteristics — both human and divine in his makeup. The divine part of him seemed to sense, even at an early age, that he was the Messiah, the Son of God; however, the human part of him needed to find out from other human beings, what being the Son of God entailed; therefore, the necessity for his trip to the Temple on this particular Passover feast day.

Of course we find instances of this duality scattered throughout the gospels. Remember the woman with the hemorrhage? She sought out Jesus and thought if she were just to touch the hem of his coat, that she would be cured. She got close enough to him to do just that, and Jesus felt power (his divine side) flow out of him for the woman’s cure, but he wondered who had touched him (his human side). The disciples said, “You’ve got to be kidding; here we are in a closely packed crowd of people, and you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

On a recent chapter retreat up at Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri, Carl McColman, our retreat leader for our 2019 St. Louis Retreat (the topic of which will be “Jewish Keys to the Spirituality of Christ) told us of the Lord’s encounter with the Syrophoenician woman whose daughter was possessed by an evil spirit. She asked Jesus to help her daughter, and he said that his task was to witness to Jews. She came back with something like, “Even dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table.” By that example, she was teaching him that, “No, you could help people outside of the Jewish faith, people like my daughter and me.” I think Carl’s point was that Jesus learned from regular everyday human beings what he could do to further God’s kingdom.

Wouldn't it be enlightening to know what the 12-year-old Jesus talked with the elders in the temple about? Were they discussing some passage from Isaiah? What did Jesus know that impressed those elders?

Whatever it was, it was most certainly bound up with this young boy's identity as a practicing Jew in First Century Palestine.

### Questions for Reflection

1. The trip to Jerusalem was about 75 miles from Nazareth and one must journey on foot to go to Passover. The Festival is in spring so the weather could change from clear to stormy. A cart might be used to carry provisions but everyone walked. This was not a Holiday Inn – no warm bath or toilet – how would you feel about making this journey?
2. Jewish travelers would carry their own kosher food basket – what might that include – remember there is no ice chest, bottled water, and other convenient foods like today. What would you bring?
3. Many people have thought this trip at the age of 12 was for a bar mitzvah. Were you surprised to learn that celebration did not come into being until many years later?
4. Ted asks an intriguing question when he says “It would be enlightening to know what the 12 year old Jesus talked about with the Elders in the Temple.”
5. Have you ever had a child be late or missed showing up on time and you had trouble trying to find them? Talk about how Mary and Joseph must have felt after searching for Jesus three days?
6. Jesus was fine, as we know. Do you think that Jesus was able to see more of the journey that would be ahead of Him?

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

**SERVICE OF ADMISSION  
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019**

**Canadian Director**



Sr. Wendy Samuel, WSHS

**Investiture of Lay Sister**



Sr. Shirley Evangeline, WSHS

**Admission of Companion**



Erin Diericx, Comp., WSHS

**Admission of Friend**



Sandra Bowers, Friend., WSHS

**Your Prayers are Requested**