

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



THE LOAVES AND FISH
April 2019

Bulletin Cover: John 6:1-13 **Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

Internet photo

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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, www.workerbrothers.org

THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
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CORPORATE COMMUNIONS APRIL 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
Ginny Berkey, WSHS
Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2019

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



HAITI

Let us continue to pray for all our Haitian Sisters and Brothers as they are going through devastating problems in their country. They are dealing with the loss of medical supplies and medications along with many other travesties. Please pray that their supplies of our water tablets have not been compromised. Br. Frantz Benedict and his team need our love and support as they travel to the mountains, villages and orphanages to deliver water tablets for clean water to their people.

The majority of January found Global Hydration out of the water tablets that we always order. But towards the end of the month, they were in stock. So, three cases of water tablets were shipped to Sr. Betty-Lou to forward to Haiti in January. Then in the month of February, one case was shipped out.

Continued support from our Community is so much appreciated in keeping our Haiti Mission going. We thank all Community for their love and devotion in this endeavor.



FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

We have just been reminded that **Sr. Beryl Joy** turned 97 last November. Sr. Beryl became a Lay Worker in December 1988. She is a member of the Rebecca Cluster and meets with Sr. Deborah once a month. They have dinner together in the beautiful dining room at Tiffin house. It is a wonderful time for sharing about their relationship with Jesus, with each other and with our Community. Congratulations to our oldest living member of WSHS!





SPIRITUAL SHARING

I think when Simeon held baby Jesus he must have had an overwhelming feeling this was no ordinary baby boy and he knew who He was.

When Anna saw this infant, she knew he was special, the Redeemer, the Messiah and she had to speak out.

It is in Community that I really have learned to listen to the voice of God in one another and see the face of God in one another, as well as in my own face.

It is amazing to me that I can read the same scriptures, the same Bible stories over and over and glean new meaning from the words each time I read it.

Our community is constantly changing or becoming. With each new member, with the loss of a member through death – we are constantly becoming different and that is OK. It is a living organism and change is constant.

Praying the words of Martin Luther, “I am yours. Save me”, over and over at night, helped me to know that God would comfort me. And He did, of course.

My aim for this Lent and the coming year is to deepen my prayer life as well as just spending more time doing things I enjoy.

There is nothing like hardship and trauma to make you rethink your values and focus on the important things in this beautiful but fleeting life.

I can only imagine the growth in Mary and Joseph as the years went by (after the birth of Jesus). It had to be very confusing at times, very puzzling as well as very difficult; and then Mary at the Cross – it must have cost her all – and yet she endured and grew to be a person whose acceptance of God’s will and whose simple humility we all aspire to.

In response to the Bulletin reflection questions about “Retirement”, like Anna I will always be “in God’s Service”.

I was home from college and my elderly friend was home on oxygen. She commented to me that she could still serve God in prayer. I think – whether we are listening to God, praying as the Spirit guides us or the recipient of the love and prayer of others, we remain always in God’s presence and service.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

The Loaves and Fishes

By

Sr. Barbara Veronica, WSHS



Sr. Barbara Veronica is the Provincial of the Eastern Province. She became a Lay Worker in April 2011.

Feeding the Five Thousand John 6:1-13 (NRSV)

⁶After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.[a] ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages[b] would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰Jesus said “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they[c] sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost. ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.”

Look, there are the people; five thousand of them, hungry as hunters, and they all need to have food given to them! These poor people were famished. There was probably more than five thousand if we count the women and children. This crowd of people, which was growing each day, had been following Jesus for a few days now. They were following him not because they are hungry for bread but for another food – the word of God. And Jesus had been feeding them with parables; the parable of the mustard seed, the parable of the leaven bread, the parable of the weeds and the parable of the sower.

Now this day the hour is growing late; the crowds had come to a deserted place, and Jesus brings his teaching to a close. In just a few minutes, the crowd began to notice the lateness of the hour and that they had a very real tangible bodily hunger – for bread. Bread was the main stay of this people’s diet.

The majority of the flour used was barley, which is described as being “barely fit for a horse to eat.” Barley flour at this time was full of grit, but it was the flour that most people could afford. Many of the travelers had begun following Jesus with a basket or cloth containing some bread and maybe yogurt or fish sauce or dried and salted fish, knowing that this Rabbi walked from one point to another teaching and healing all the way.

the situation began to change. People were angrily shouting to their “neighbors” sitting all around the grassy hill side. Children were crying; others were possibly fighting over a few scraps of food. The elderly were too tired to try to begin the journey home on an empty stomach. Jesus turned to Phillip and said, “Where are we going to buy bread for these people?” Jesus already knew that He was not willing to send these people away with no food. The disciples were accustomed to handling many problems that occurred during Christ’s ministry, but Phillip thought this was too big for Jesus to handle. At this point in their pondering, Andrew came forward to tell the group that he had found a young boy with a small meal of two barley loaves and three fish that he would give to “teacher” if it would help. The disciples were incredulous when Jesus answered, “Bring the lad with the food to me.” But Jesus knew what he was going to do. He was going to take that small meal, barely enough for a growing boy, and feed this multitude. Let’s think about that boy for a minute. Was he there alone? Had he saved his food all day because he wasn’t hungry at mid-day, or did he feel a need to keep his food so something wonderful would happen?

Jesus told the disciples to quiet the crowd and tell them to sit down on the grass. Did they suspect what Christ was going to do at this point? I don’t think so. I think the following miracle was a complete surprise. Jesus took the food from the trembling hands of the boy. He gave thanks to God for this food and he blessed it before handing to the disciples to distribute. As they separated and walked among the crowd, every human being received bread and fish. The more food they passed out the more they had! After everyone had eaten their fill, Jesus asked the disciples to gather up the leftovers and they filled twelve large baskets; enough for all to take some home with them! If that little boy had not willingly given his food to Jesus, it would have fed only him. However, he chose to put it in the Lord’s hands and it was multiplied. That is yet another lesson for us; what we give into God’s hands is multiplied whether it is our talents, our intelligence, our cash, our prayers, our love of others, it is multiplied!

Think of it, five little loaves and two fish were blessed by Christ, as he lifted his eyes to heaven and gave thanks to the Father for them. This was such a small amount for such praise, but Jesus knew what this small amount was going to become. “God loves us,” said Saint Augustine “for what we are becoming.” I think that is what our Community does for us; we are all becoming, regardless of our place within the Community.

These loaves and fish have a history of their own. The number of the fish and the number of the loaves may be different, but it is all about this miracle. There have been magnificent banquets given throughout history but none have been as chronicled as this one meal! You will find it in all four gospels: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:1-13. You will find in each gospel barley loaves and fish. To make sure we do not forget how much God can do with little things, this story is told four times! It is the only one of Christ’s miracles that has such an abundant record.

After the people saw the miracle, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.” (John 6:14) The miracle of the loaves carried them back to the wilderness and the miracle of the manna. They remembered what Moses said, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people...” (Deut 18:15) They had longed for this deliverer for so long and as the bread increased so grew their wonder. They saw the hand of God in this. So that little boy, whose name or parents we don’t even know became, with his loaves and fish, the one who revealed Christ to the multitude.

All these centuries later, Jesus is still grateful when small offerings are given to Him. He loves us just as we are, but He also knows what we are becoming. May the Lord bless us all.

Questions for Reflection
Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS

1. As you read Sr. Barbara Veronica’s article about “The Loves and the Fishes” can you shut your eyes, draw quietly within yourself and place yourself in the scene she describes? What does it feel like? You have been traveling for a few days on foot. Are you tired and thirsty and the day grows dark?
2. We often think only of the adults in the scene but take a minute to look at the children. As one who has traveled with cranky children we can remember how distracting they can be especially if they are tired, hungry, and out of sorts. As the sun begins to set that day, folks do become irritated regarding space, food, and a place of comfort. The scene could change from quiet to discomfort among the crowd.
3. Jesus is deeply aware of the change and reaches out to Philip for food to feed these people – Philip was clearly overwhelmed – Andrew comes forward that he had found a small boy with food that he would give to feed them if that would help. What a special child – how many of us would give all the substance we had to feed others; a good question to ponder?
4. Jesus accepts the food from the little one, tells the crowd to sit down on the grass, offers thanks to God, hands the food to the disciples to distribute and as it multiplied everyone was filled.
5. There can be many thoughts as to how this miracle did occur – Jewish people would carry their own kosher food basket, but after a day or so of travel it could run dry. By asking the crowd to sit down, they would have opened their baskets and began to look at thousands around them and see they needed to share so all would be fed. Would you be willing to do that?
6. To use an old quote “This is indeed food for thought” as we pray, reflect and join that group of people on that hillside. I know people were fed and their physical needs met along with so much more. Does the meaning run deeper as we look at the boy and his small offering of food – his willingness to do without so that others might be fed; is this the pathway we should all follow?