

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



**THE HEALING POWER OF JESUS
THE JEWISH PRAYER SHAWL
May 2019**

Bulletin Cover:

The Healing Power of Jesus

Luke 8:40-49: The Jewish Prayer Shawl

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. Wendy Samuel virtue54@outlook.com or see green sheets for mailing addresses.

Urgent Community Prayer Requests for email distribution – email or call Sr. LaVerne Peter: Callaghgan@aol.com, Sr. Christine: casturges@gmail.com or Sr. Wendy Samuel: virtue54@outlook.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.

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If a friend expresses interest in WSHS/WBHS, remember to direct them to our website, www.workersisters.org, www.workerbrothers.org

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| Web Addresses: workersisters.org workerbrothers.org | |
| Trina Avedisian, Friend, WSHS | Layout & Design WSHS/WBHS Bulletin |
| Sr. Sharron Magdalene, WSHS | Proof Reader |
| Contributing Staff | |
| Br. Ephrem, WBHS | News Notes and Prayer List |
| Shirley Pace, WSHS | Calendar |
| Sr. Christine, WSHS | Co-Director |
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
MAY 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

May 18 • June 22 • July 27 • August 24
September 28 • October 26 • November 23 • December 14

FALL CHAPTER
August 29 - September 1, 2019
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:

Sr. Catherine Marie's cell number is: 815-347-3337

Sr. Lucia no longer has a land line. Remove the Home phone number

Sr. Wendy Samuel has a new phone number: 289-440-0451

Carl McColman – His email address is: mccolman@gmail.com

Fran McColman – Her email address is: franvmccolman@gmail.com

We are proud to announce that **Sr. Brenda Faith, WSHS** will be ordained a deacon on June 8, 2019. Your prayers are requested.



By the Grace of God
and with the consent of the people
The Right Reverend Brian R. Seage
Tenth Bishop of Mississippi
will ordain

Joseph Leslie Hegwood, Jr.
Myron Willis Lockey, Jr.
Brenda Mae McClendon
Elisabeth Jane Malphurs

to the Sacred Order of Deacons
in Christ's
One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church
Saturday, the eighth of June
two thousand and nineteen
at half past ten o'clock in the morning
Cathedral Church of St. Andrew
305 East Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy: red stoles

Reception following



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I was very, very nervous about meeting my Stephen Ministry care receiver – and not sure if I was ready or qualified. The Holy Spirit stepped in and took over. Our meetings have been such a blessing to us both! At the end of my first visit she said, “I feel like I’ve known you for a long time.” I felt the same way.

Sr. Wendy Martha offers a meaningful reflection on the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple and the reactions of Simeon and Anna. Everything in this story reminds me of someone I know or have known. I always associate the Nunc Dimittus with a funeral I attended years ago. The words are so fitting: “Lord, let your servant depart in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation prepared for all people.” It is a poignant reminder that we can indeed see salvation here on earth; for me that includes seeing God in other people.

Jesus taught and listened to learn, as we all must do. Jesus did not know everything especially how people interpreted God’s word. He had much to learn about that! Jesus sought deeper learning and understanding; a goal of mine also.

My favorite part of this reading is, “His mother kept all these things in her heart.” Mary learned the most about Jesus because her heart was filled with love for her son. She knew who He was becoming and the unconditional love He was showing all of us. She knew His goal and she knew His heart.

Based upon the lack of money, I would want very much to offer more but we can’t so I would pick out the most beautiful birds that would be available and give them humbly as our offering.

It appears that Anna must have felt a great sense of accomplishment by seeing the Messiah and Redeemer she had waited for all those years. She must have felt truly blessed to have been experiencing this wondrous event.

I have no trouble picturing Jesus as a child because of a picture book I had when I was about 5 or 6. The title was If Jesus Came to My House, and the story imagined a visit from the child Jesus. I read it repeatedly and can still quote a lot of it. “If Jesus came to my house, I’d like for him to be about the age that I am, and about the size of me.” I loved imagining that Jesus was visiting me.

Yes, I can picture Jesus working as a carpenter. I love wood — the feel of it, the look of it, the smell of it — and I’m sure what Jesus made was beautiful. Somewhere (I think it was in the book The Robe) I read the sentence, “When He put together a mortise and tenon, it looked like they had grown that way.” What a great image! Yes, it would be amazing to talk with Jesus. But I think I would be quite content not talking, just being there quietly watching his hands, his face his expression as he worked at his earthly craft.

This month, I have been focusing on making time for my quiet time. Once everyone leaves the house, I usually have a few hours before going off to work/school/rehearsal. In the past, I have filled this time with practicing, chores, mindlessness, or whatever. This month, I have been reading the Psalms.

I am seeing God in my life again. I am taking time to notice how he moves and blesses me. The earth is starting to wake up, and so am I. I did so much gardening yesterday, I can hardly sit down, but I just love being out there uncovering all that life trying to push through. Or finding that the bluebells have already pushed up right through the middle of the dead leaves! Loving God is such an ingrained part of me that I take for granted that I was given such a great example of what that means. My kids aren't going to get that unless I show them, so I'm trying to do a better job. Bit by bit, I can see a peace and calmness, as well as more of a sense of strength and hope. The journey continues.

The insight that was given during our Corporate Communion discussion time was that Jesus, the human part of him, needed input and wisdom from others. He listened to others more deeply than we often do. I have no idea of the subject matter for discussion with the rabbi's – but I agree with Ted, part of him was drawn in some inexpressible way to his divine path, and yet being fully human, he must have had a real need to flesh out the details.

I have always liked the story of Jesus and the Syrophenician woman, who pleaded for healing for her daughter. It impressed me that Jesus actually let his mind be changed. I think that he listened to her and pondered in his heart and thereby realized that he had a more enlarged ministry than he had previously thought. I like to think that although divine, Jesus learned and grew in wisdom all the way to the end. And I liked the fact that he learned from others as well as from Scriptures and prayer. To me that re-enforces that humility is the place to begin if we want to learn and grow spiritually.

I read the section in the book called, *What all Christians need to know about the Jewishness of Jesus*, that parallels with the life of Jesus. This book explained that Jesus found it very important as a child to go to the temple, not so much to teach the elders, (even though He actually exchanged knowledge with them) but as a good Jew, he knew that knowledge and wisdom came from those who were older than Him. It goes on to tell that Jesus, in later life, was called the Rabbi or teacher. He went to the temple to absorb knowledge from those who were His elders. This was part of His understanding about the need to grow in wisdom and understanding, which would later help Him develop into the Rabbi that He was destined to become as a human. It also demonstrated His humility as a child to be a good listener, and not a boastful child who might brag about knowing more than His elders.

Both Simeon and Anna showed great faith and listened intently for God's direction. They were rewarded when Jesus was presented in the temple. I admire their strength of character in keeping tightly to their faith in God's word.

Sometimes I wonder how much doubt was present when biblical figures said "Yes" to God. That part of the story is never told. Joseph must have had some sleepless nights before taking Mary and Jesus to Egypt. But despite his (likely) misgivings, he went anyway. Our church has a Lenten study once per week, and we are reading about Simon Peter, faithful but flawed. He needed affirmation, and often stumbled, but did what God was asking him to do. May I follow in his footsteps.

I can imagine Jesus as a young child, learning carpentry from his father. I can picture him helping in his father's shop, although I imagine his shop would have been small in the early years of Jesus. We don't hear anything of Joseph after he returns from Egypt, but he would have been busy providing for the family since Jesus had several brothers and sisters.

At one point, later in Jesus' ministry, his mother came with his brothers and sisters to see him and talk with him, but the crowd was too large. I imagine that he would have gone to them later to let them know he was good and busy healing and preaching.

I got a copy of Jewish Jesus from the library system. The author called Jesus one of the most important rabbis in history. And he explains that Jesus was teaching the same sort of things as some of his contemporaries. However, something set him apart from the others. People saw the healing miracles he performed and some believed he was the Son of God.

I have always wondered why Joseph does not appear during Jesus' ministry. Conjecture is that he was older and died when Jesus was a teenager. But he must have been around awhile, Jesus had 5 or 6 brothers after all . . .

As I have experienced more difficulty with finances for the last few years and experienced difficulty in contributing to charitable funds to the degree I want to, I have had to get over being embarrassed and humbly accept that I can only do what I can do. I expect Mary and Joseph felt very humbled when they could only purchase two pigeons, yet they did what they could and moved forward.

We are never too old to do God's work. We could be bed-ridden and still pray for ourselves and the world. Look at us WSHS/WBHS; we continue to do God's work day in and day out through various projects; Haiti water tablets, guidance for the poor children of Haiti and many outreach ministries through our churches, etc.

I find that when I am in a group I can accomplish more than when I am working alone. That is also how I feel about my faith journey. With support I can do more, with encouragement I will go further and farther.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

The Healing Power of Jesus The Jewish Prayer Shawl

By

Sr. Pam Raphael, WSHS



Sr. Pam Raphael lives in Florida. She became a Lay Worker in 1984. She is Coordinator of Companions and Friends.

Luke 8:40-49

⁴⁰Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹Just then, there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, ⁴²for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying.

As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. ⁴³Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, ⁴⁴no one could cure her. ⁴⁴She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. ⁴⁵Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter^{b)} said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." ⁴⁶But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." ⁴⁷When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

⁴⁹While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer."

It was probably a hot day when Jesus and his disciples walked through Jerusalem surrounded by a large crowd of people who were all pressing in to get closer to him. The familiar steps were hard to climb with hands reaching out to him from every direction. From every direction there were people pressing ever closer to him. I imagine how tired he must have felt as he fought the crowds, endured the heat and answered the never-ending stream of questions being directed at him.

Jesus was born into an orthodox family and was most likely an observant Orthodox Jew. This meant that he would have been draped in a white prayer shawl which was woven with blue thread that had been dyed from a dye that could only be made in the area of the Mediterranean Sea. This shawl was called a tallit gadol. This means a large shawl. Along the four edges were tassels called tzit-tzit. In Jewish teachings these tassels which are in obedience to Numbers 15:38-45 represent Gods divine light which

permeates all of creation. It makes sense to believe that Jesus, the Lord of creation, wore tzit-tzit on the four ends of his shawl.

Today it is common to see Jewish men and, in reformed and modern Jewish sects, women as well, wearing prayer shawls during prayer. Orthodox Jews wear tallit during daylight hours and on all high holidays. To accommodate a modern wardrobe some might wear a tallit katon which is a small shawl that fits on the belt and allows the tassels to hang below the shirt. In Jesus' era all men wore tzit-tzit if they were observant. As we have already seen Jesus and his earthy family were observant. Therefore he most certainly draped himself in his shawl with four tassels attached to his hem.

The woman described surely was feeling desperate. She had been suffering from a blood disease for seven years. We can only speculate as to what her disease was but we know it was chronic and incurable. In Jewish culture at that time it was forbidden to touch blood or to be near someone who was bleeding. Women retreated to special houses after childbirth and during menstruation to avoid contaminating others. No man was allowed near this house until the bleeding ceased and the woman had taken a ritual bath for purification.

This woman had continually bled for years and she had spent everything she had on doctors. She was feeling alone, desperate and hopeless. She certainly lived in isolation as an outcast and since she had spent all her money to try to find medical help she probably begged to survive. She wouldn't have seen her family or friends for seven years. She had no one to turn to. She must have overheard people describing the healing miracles Jesus performed and she risked her life to reach him. If she had been caught around people she would have been put to death. It's likely she concealed her bleeding from the crowds and pushed through all the people to reach Jesus. She must have been terror-filled that someone would recognize her.

Finally she saw him and reached to touch his tzit-tzit. Did she have to reach through people to touch the very edges of his tassels? Did she have to try several times before finally reaching him? When her fingers felt the tassels she felt something in her body that confirmed she had been healed. At the same time Jesus asked "who touched me?" Scripture tells us that he felt power leave him. The Greek word used is "dynamis", which means miraculous power. Imagine feeling this miraculous power healing our bodies, minds and spirits!

Jesus turned and looked into her eyes. But instead of scolding the woman Jesus commended her faith. Healing came from the power of faith. It's interesting to note that in this Scripture passage there was a second individual seeking healing. Jairus was a desperate father who was pleading for his child. He is described as a ruler of a synagogue. In first century Israel while the Temple stood, there were places of worship in remote areas where routine worship and ceremonies were held. All sacrifices and high holiday worship had to be done at the temple. No doubt Jairus had traveled a long way. Perhaps he was in Jerusalem for a temple ceremony. Or maybe he made the long trip up hills and mountains to seek help from Jesus. Perhaps his twelve year old daughter and his only child was far away; but he was desperate. Jesus also recognized the faith of this father. Jesus healed the daughter because of the faith of her father. I imagine the tallit of Christ flowing from his divine nature right into the bed of the dying child restoring her to life and health. "Lamar", the Hebrew equivalent to the Greek word "Kraspedon" means edge, but what many miss when reading this Scripture is that the plural for kanvas is kanafim

which means edge but also means wings. In reading Scripture containing kanafim it appears that God has a garment with such corners or wings. The Psalmist writes “Keep me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings”. Ps 17:8. “He will cover you with pinions and under his wings you seek refuge”. Ps 91:4. Clearly the Hebrew woman, described in Matthew, knew to seek shelter in the shadow of God’s wings. “But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings”. Mal 3:20.

When we wrap ourselves in a prayer shawl we are joining men and women throughout the ages in faith. We create a sacred space to petition God as we become aware of our connection to him and to all creation. We block out distractions and bring our consciousness only to him. In a deliberate move towards God we feel surrounded by a mantle of love and a state of Shalom. We can offer our prayers, and as the woman in Jerusalem and the desperate father did so long ago, expect to receive that surge of divine power.

As we wrap ourselves in our tallit may we sense ourselves reaching for the tassels on the hem of Jesus’ prayer shawl. Allow God to let us sense ourselves in God and connected to all of his creation. Feel his love over us as a comfortable mist completely surrounding us. Let us feel the life he has breathed into us. We reach for the healing power found covered in God’s wings. And let us open ourselves completely to him and receive his perfect Shalom.

Questions for Reflection
Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS

1. As we read Sr. Pam Raphael’s article it is interesting to learn more about the Jewish Prayer Shawl or Tallit. In Numbers 15:37-40 and in Deuteronomy 22:12, Moses received from God the specifications for making the Tallit. Take time to read and reflect.
2. Jesus being an “observant Orthodox Jew” would have worn the white Prayer Shawl which was woven with blue thread. There were several shawls worn of this type at Retreat this year. Have you seen this type of Prayer Shawl before? Share your thoughts.
3. Today there is a growing popularity in the Christian community for using Prayer Shawls – perhaps you have one or made one. Do you use it when you pray?
4. If you would like to know more about the Tallit – there is an excellent book by Bishop John Francis called “Tallit ha Cumi” which gives more information about this. Maybe take time to read and digest it.
5. The woman with the hemorrhage was very much at the end of her rope and in desperation she reached out to Jesus – she was afraid people would scorn her, but she continued, touched the tassels, and her body was healed. Try to place yourself in her situation and imagine how she felt.
6. Jesus knew someone had touched him, and as Sr. Pam Raphael says “Jesus commended her faith”. Think what comfort that must have been to not only be healed but to know it was okay to reach out and touch Jesus.

7. Sr. Pam Raphael's words are worth repeating. At the ending of her article – "As we wrap ourselves in our tallit may we sense ourselves reaching for the tassels on the hem of Jesus' prayer shawl. God allowing us to sense ourselves in God and all of his creation. Feel his love over us as a comfortable mist completely surrounding us. Let us feel the life he has breathed into us. We reach for the healing power covered in God's wings. And let us open ourselves completely to him and receive his perfect Shalom." Pray and reflect upon those words.