

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.*

Amen.

**I WANT TO SEE
RABBI JESUS
June 2019**

Bulletin Cover:

I want to see Rabbi Jesus

Internet Photo

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.

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 JUNE 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

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:

Marshall Scott, Friend - *Please update his new street address to:*

209 Upper Meadows Road
Sparta, Tennessee 38583

Shelley Selph, WSHS – *Her phone number is:* 503-528-4264

The email address for Steve Bradley, Companion, is the same as Sr. Barbara Rebecca's. Please replace what is in your Green Sheets with the following email: bardbradley1792@gmail.com

The email in the Green Sheets for **Sr. Janet Rose** and **Glenn Risse, Companion** is no longer active. Please remove from your Green Sheets.



NEW WORKER APPLICANT – LETTY GUEVARA-CUENCE

Leticia (Letty) Guevara-Cuence
831 Hearthstone Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Home Phone: 404-499-2375
Cell Phone: 404-418-2608
Email: lettyguevaracuence@gmail.com
Birthday: April 4

Welcome Letty as a Lay Worker Applicant! She was admitted as a Friend at Retreat 2017 and then was admitted as a Companion at Retreat 2018. In December 2018, she was ordained an Episcopal Deacon at The Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. She lives in Stone Mountain, GA with her partner Meghan. Letty has a rich background, having lived in Venezuela until 1999. Her family migrated from Spain to Venezuela in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War. Letty is a Content Coordinator at CNN and serves as a Deacon at Christ Church, Norcross Georgia.



SPECIAL NEWS NOTES

We realize that some of you do not have access to the email prayer requests that are sent out periodically. Therefore, we are including these prayer requests that came to us in the month of May while we were preparing the June Bulletin. Thank you for keeping these members of our Community in your prayers.

Marilyn Propp, WSHS has been down with the flu and took a fall, resulting in a mild to medium concussion. She will not be on her computer for a few weeks as she rests her brain and her eyes. Please keep Marilyn in your prayers for healing, peace and relief if pain. Cards and notes would be welcome.

Jean Kinmonth, WSHS - We have just learned of the death of her daughter, Karen. Karen passed away on Palm Sunday following emergency surgery. The loss of a child is so painful and this is less than a year since Jean's sister in Arizona died. Please hold Jean and her family in prayer for comfort, peace, and healing. Jean has been a member of our Community since 1973 and was a close friend of Sr. Angela and Br. Andrew as the Community was being founded.



HAITI

We had a wonderful Retreat and we all celebrated being together. We prayed for each other and for all those who were unable to attend. We missed you Br. Frantz Benedict and prayed for you and all your people, our loving Sisters and Brothers and families in Haiti.

In the month of March, Global Hydration shipped a case of water tablets and again in April one more case was shipped. Andrew Moorey of Global Hydration informed me that their stock is out until the end of May, and hopefully we are able to ship another case by then. But at least we were able to have these two cases shipped.

I want to thank everyone at Retreat and all our Community for their continued support of our Haiti Mission. We collected \$392 USA dollars at Retreat this year. All donations from clothing and the Haiti display went towards water tablets.

We all thank Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley for her continued support in receiving and shipping out the water tablets to Haiti and for praying over them when she takes them to the post office before they are shipped out. She has also figured out a way to save on shipping costs.



NEWS NOTES

Sr. Shirley Evangeline - My church had a wonderful Women's Retreat in Eureka Springs, Arkansas led by Kim Snodgrass who inspired us to think about our senses - seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching in our relationship with God.

Sr. Paula Adelaide - I'm now in two noon-time Bible Study groups — didn't plan it that way, it just happened. Currently reading Acts with one group (Methodists) and Psalms with the other (Episcopalians). Midweek Eucharist continues to be a high point of my week, sustaining me when I'm feeling overwhelmed. Being a Stephen Minister is enriching my life greatly. It's a blessing both to my care receiver and to me. I've also been helping with monthly "Music at Grace" events. A local university presents concerts by music students, and we provide a simple reception. The kids get experience performing in a public off-campus setting, and we get to welcome neighbors and newcomers into our church.

Sr. Nancy Teresa - Every other Friday, Barbie Richards and I meet for lunch and Holy Communion. We also share what is going on in our lives. I am very grateful for Barbie's friendship through the years. She has a special place in her life for our Community.

Sr. Joanna sent us a note to let us know she and husband Jeff are doing well. Jeff just turned 90 and Sr. Joanna is 87. They recently moved in with their older son, Jeff III, his wife Wendy, his adult son Sam, 3 dogs, an iguana named Gilligan and many tropical fish. "Never a lull!" She is going to the Methodist Church with Wendy and son Jeff. Last year she attended a 2 day retreat with Wendy and will do that again this year, but she misses her WSHS/WBHS family.

Ellie Eshelman, Friend – Sending my thanks to all WSHS/WBHS members that I appreciate their prayers so much. Each one of you is a blessing to me and to the others who suffer with the Lambert-Eaton Disease. *My love to you. Ellie*



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I've been rather a spiritual yoyo lately. Holy Week and Easter were highs. (Yes, even the very solemn and silent Maundy Thursday memorial and Good Friday's service – darkness yet nearness to God.) The lows have been because of my tendency to overcommit myself. There's a big conflict between the things I WANT to do – either for myself or for others - and the things I HAVE To Do. So, I get discouraged and don't do anything. Well, let me amend that; I do manage to check at least one thing a day off my to-do list. A friend quoted Frances de Sales to me: "You should pray half an hour daily unless you're busy; then you should pray an hour!" We laughed, but it's true. I'm trying. Mostly arrow prayers, but more of them; they add up.

Growing up a military dependent, I became accustomed to traveling a lot under all kinds of conditions, some easy, some decidedly not. I learned to take whatever came. The trip to Jerusalem needed to be made and walking was the way to get there. It is what it is.

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.” I’m sure Nazareth had at least one rabbi and a number of men who studied Torah assiduously, but this trip to Jerusalem was an opportunity for Jesus to seek out recognized authorities who were well-versed in the details of Scripture. I’d guess Jesus was particularly interested in the prophets and prophecies, and I wonder how much Mary had told him about his birth. Did he know he was born in Bethlehem? What about the angels and shepherds and magi? That would be a lot for a young child to grasp; when did Mary start to share his story? By twelve, Jesus knew that God was his father, but at that age did he understand that literally or figuratively? It’s no wonder that time slipped away — he probably would have stayed even longer if his parents hadn’t found him.

Certainly every parent has had a child who didn’t come home on time at least once. I remember when my high-school-age daughter and a few friends were recruited to serve desserts at a local fundraiser. She said she’d be home around 11. At 2 a.m. Bob went out looking for her. He found her at the fundraiser site: the volunteer coordinator had kept the kids to wash all the dishes! Interestingly, my daughter was mad at us — she said it was humiliating to have her father show up. I wonder if Jesus was embarrassed to be pulled away by Mary and Joseph in front of the rabbis

Yes, I’m sure Jesus learned from every experience throughout his earthly lifetime, but I would hope that as a child he was spared the worst parts of this knowledge. I think much of his understanding of his messiahship came during the forty days in the desert before he began his ministry. And even though he talked about his death with his disciples a number of times, I’m not sure the reality of it hit him at a gut level until Gethsemane, when he prayed all alone, his sweat like drops of blood.

I find that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and direct me with little nudges. Sometimes I find myself doing something that doesn’t seem characteristic of me. For example, when a friend told me her niece (who was like a daughter to her) had died, instead of saying “I’m so sorry” I asked, “Shall we pray for her?” I took her hands and the prayer just came. A simple thing, but not something I would have done a few years ago.

When our Rector preached on 1 Corinthians 13, I was shocked at how much more “gentleness” and “kindness” there could be in my life. I’ve been far too brusque and self-righteous lately. I apologized to my wife and promised to do better.

One of my greatest joys at being beside the ocean is to collect stones and seashells. I am always surprised that the ones that I choose are always the broken ones – the crushed whelk with the beautiful internal spiral, the cockle with the perfect little hole so suitable for thread, and the broken oysters with their shiny mother-of-pearl. When it comes to it, the imperfect shells are really more interesting and singular.

As people, I think we are very much like broken shells. We are all broken in one way or another. Yet how often does our struggling with our brokenness make us stronger, more compassionate and more interesting; and how often do our greatest gifts and talents develop from our hurts and weaknesses.

I knew a man in Southeast Kansas who had a small second hand shop right next to the best field of turnips I have ever seen. He had had a stressful job that had led to a serious heart attack and depression. He had returned to the small town he was born in, opened his shop and started growing turnips. He felt that growing turnips was the therapy he had needed and had turned his life around. There are so many examples of people who have tackled their problems by throwing themselves into a hobby or craft or cause and in so doing produced wonderful gardens, or pots or started organizations that have done untold good for others at the same time as finding joy and healing for themselves.

A "Type A" Forgives Herself

by Joan Gittings

We are so hard on ourselves. The whip is out.
The litany reads: "Why did I say that?
He was finally speaking. I had to say something.
Yackity Yak. Yackity Yak. Learn. Don't talk back"

I missed the deadline again.
Prayer requests. Precious intent for those I care about.
Out comes the whip...Geez, here I go again.
Perhaps I will meet the next target date.

And then today, glimpses of grace:
While in the garden, we saw at the same moment,
A minute sprout on the presumed dead branch of the fig tree.
Not a word spoken. Two confluent grins embracing.

And just twenty minutes ago, I thought about writing this.
The coffee spilled on the counter,
I tripped on way to the computer, then sat at the keyboard and was grateful.
Arrival time. It is true. Always, we begin again.

This Lent I am focusing on not seeking perfection so much as accepting and being grateful for my own brokenness and that of others and celebrating the God of resurrection who can bring light from darkness and life from death.

I would have mixed feelings about making the journey to Jerusalem and the temple. Being with friends and family, probably seeing old friends and family in the city would be exciting, but I would dread the long journey to getting there. This is true about a lot of things in life. Once we do it we find it was worthwhile.

They probably brought water in skins, wine, bread, fruit, maybe some dried fish and meat. I was surprised to learn from Ted's piece that bar mitzvah celebrations did not come into being until many

years later. I imagine that the 12year old Jesus talked to the elders about the law and the prophets and listened to their wisdom. He probably answered a lot of their questions about his thoughts and ideas. They were probably amazed at this wisdom both by his questions of them and his answers to their questions.

I am sure Mary and Joseph were frantic looking for Jesus. I know if my children were late getting home to eat, especially when they were children, I would get worried and start calling their friends' homes. I can imagine how frantic Mary and Joseph were and even though they did not have many of the dangers we have today, there were dangers in their day too.

I don't know if Jesus was able to see the life journey that was ahead of him. He was fully human as well as divine and we cannot know the future. This was so he could fully understand us. I was taught as a child by a wonderful priest in my childhood that one of the reasons God came as a human being was to know what it was like to live in time and space because as God, he is not hampered by time and space.

I am preaching this Sunday and the gospel is the one of Jesus being at Lazarus, Martha and Mary's home and Mary anoints his feet with the expensive perfume ointment for his burial. I learned some interesting facts when I was researching the material. I learned that people's feet were anointed only when they died. While they were alive it was usually their head that was anointed.

I think I would share whatever food I had as far as possible. I am reminded of how many are really starving all over the world and wonder how can this be in today's world? When I visited Haiti in 2013, I know food was scarce as well as the ability to cook what they had, but you wouldn't believe the tasty meals we were served, cooked outside over a camp fire.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

I Want to See Rabbi Jesus

By

Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS



Sr. Nancy Teresa lives in Overland Park, Kansas and is our WSHS United States Treasurer. She became a Lay Worker in April 1974.

Studying Rabbi Jesus has been eye-opening for me. I am delighted to learn more about who Jesus is and was and am surprised that I knew so little about Him as a Jew.

Up until now, I had thought of Jesus as a man, as God, as my friend. But when I add the Jewish dimension, I see Him in a new and more inclusive way.

As I was reading “*Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus*” I became deeply interested in Jesus’ prayer life. That is what I have chosen to share with you today.

It is important to note that Jewish life was saturated with prayer. The Jewish word for prayer is KAVANAH and it means to focus one’s attention and concentration on being in the presence of God; to direct one’s thoughts toward God. According to the Jews, we can say prayers only because God moves through us – so we can always pray because He is always there.

The Jews had many Blessings which they prayed throughout the day. There are two meanings for the word ‘blessing’: one is to praise God and one is to be thankful.

To saturate our lives in prayer, we can begin as Jesus did, as we awake. Bless God that our souls have been returned to us this day; bless God that we can see, move, that our bodily functions are ‘working’; bless God for the nature that we see and experience. We bless God in all situations, not just the happy ones. It is very important that we express our anger to God as well (we can do that because He is present, He listens, and most important, He can handle our anger at Him). One of the turning points in my life occurred when I was furious with God. I told him in no uncertain words how I felt and then I waited for Him to go away. He has been closer to me ever since.

As we see Jesus praying, we notice that he does not pray in vain. His prayer is always genuine; His heart is always in His prayer. Jesus knew, and we also know God is listening. God is fully present to us now — here; we are standing in the presence of God himself.

Jesus prayed the SHEMA (pronounced ‘shmah’) daily. That ancient prayer is: “Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:29-30)

If we had been able to be with Jesus here on earth, we would have seen Him walking, teaching, praying and being much more than extraordinary. Jesus showed us how to live and pray. His life modeled what we are to be as children of God. Thus, our goal is to become more like Jesus through the power of His spirit within us.

In addition to private prayer, Jesus also emphasized discipleship and community over and over. As individuals and as a community we are to be TALMIDIM: students of a Rabbi, dedicating ourselves to life with a Rabbi, humbly serving him and learning the Rabbi’s understanding of scripture and His way of living it out. Our relationship with our Rabbi is more important than our relationship with our families, according to Jewish tradition.

As a community we participate in WSHS/WBHS meetings and our Retreat. At these times we share our journeys. These are the stories that deeply impact our faith as we learn how God has acted in others’ lives.

According to the Jews, prayer includes: the act of praying, studying scripture, performing acts of loving kindness, and our work. In WSHS/WBHS our rule asks us to do all the above in our community lives.

I want to conclude with a brief study of the Lord's Prayer which Jesus taught us as the way to pray.

We say 'Our Father'. (Jesus may have said 'My Father' which would indicate that He is the Messiah.) We then are reminded that God is holy, and that we want His kingdom and His will to be done here on earth as in heaven. We ask for our 'daily bread'. This word 'bread' symbolizes all needs and sustenance. We thank God for *providing* us with 'bread from the earth'.

Deliver us from evil includes danger, sin or misfortune. We acknowledge that we need God's help both physically and spiritually. We ask for protection from the evil one both within and without.

We conclude by reminding ourselves that God is the Kingdom, Power, and Glory forever.

It is exciting to realize that as we pray like Jesus, we become more like Him — and that is exactly what we are called to become.

Questions for Reflection **Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS**

1. Sr. Nancy Teresa speaks of knowing "Jesus as a man, as God and my friend but when I add the Jewish dimension, I see him more in an inclusive way." Have you had that feeling as we work on this Study?
2. She speaks of Jewish life being saturated in prayer – the word Kavanah – What a wonderful way to look at "prayer" – "God moves through us": and "God is always there". Take time to meditate and think on those words.
3. Sr. Nancy Teresa shares a way to begin when we awake, as Jesus did, with prayer that our "souls have been returned to us this day and that what we are experiencing". Take time to reflect on all of this – can you bring it "all" to God as Sr. Nancy tells.
4. Jesus does not pray in vain but his prayer is always genuine – his heart is deeply in his prayers – using this example we know that God is listening to us here and now and we are standing in the presence of God Himself – deepen our focus on our prayers.
5. Jesus prayed the Shema daily – take time to read this and keep it in your memory as Jesus did.
6. Sr. Nancy Teresa says in her article "If we had been with Jesus here on earth, we would have been with him, walking, teaching, praying, and showing us the way to live and pray. " By doing so, we become more like Jesus and the power of his Spirit within us" Take time to focus on those words deeply.
7. In closing her article – Sr. Nancy Teresa gives us a brief study of the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught us. You may want to make a copy of this in your journals or notes to refer to from time to time – which helps us to pray like Him.