

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**JESUS CALMS THE STORM**  
**September 2019**

**Bulletin Cover:** Jesus Calms the storm - Mark 4:35-41

**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: Callaghan@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](http://www.workersisters.org), [www.workerbrothers.org](http://www.workerbrothers.org)**

**THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**Web Addresses: [workersisters.org](http://workersisters.org) [workerbrothers.org](http://workerbrothers.org)**

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## CORPORATE COMMUNIONS SEPTEMBER 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

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. Charlotte Mary** has moved and is living with her daughter Constance and her family.

Sr. Charlotte Mary's new mailing address is:  
17900 County Road 5, Berthoud, CO 80513.

Her new cell number is: 970-451-2178.

Her email address is the same as before.



## SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

*We realize that some of you do not have access to the email prayer requests that are sent out periodically. Therefore we are including the prayer requests that came to us prior to our completing the current bulletin. Thank you for keeping these members of our Community in your prayers.*

**Sr. Jacquie Elizabeth, WSHS** was admitted to the hospital in mid-August. She has had a number of health issues but it was hopeful she would be able to leave the hospital and to go a rehab facility. Unfortunately, they have found a large blood clot in her leg and she is on blood thinners and will be in the hospital while they monitor the situation. This update was as of August 15. Hopefully by the time you read this in September she will be recovering in rehab.

Please keep Sr. Jacquie Elizabeth in your prayers for healing, strength and peace as well as her family. We will update as we hear further. Cards and notes would be welcome; please send to her home address.



## SPIRITUAL SHARING

Regarding the article this month from our new Canadian Director, Sr. Wendy, I appreciate her putting Jesus' humanity into context. For me, the Incarnation is such a mystery, as it should be. I don't think anyone of us fully understands how one could be fully human and fully divine. But I do appreciate seeing the humanity in Jesus.

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I have a bit of a problem when we see something such as natural human anger, impatience, or a slight lack of understanding in Jesus as evidence of his humanity. Then when we see his unconditional love, compassion, and almost breath-taking wisdom, we label that as the divine part of Jesus. I have used this quote from Fr. Beachy over and over again, but it meant a lot to me when I first heard it, and it resonates with me more now. Fr. Beachy's quote goes something like this, "Jesus showed us how to be fully human, and most of us haven't reached the fully human state yet." I think Jesus came to show us how to be fully human, but most of us are still struggling. However, the struggle leads to ongoing growth. With growth and age, comes a kind of wisdom that enables us to focus on God within ourselves and others around us in a more profound way. We may not be entirely human yet, but we are at least going in the right direction.

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As we have seen from some of the horrors in our current days — the hatred, fear, violence, greed and grasping for power over others, we know that many of us have fallen very short of being fully human. My prayer is for each of us to view this world more through Jesus' eyes, to be less reactive and more responsive and discerning in what we say and do. My prayer is for us all to be more fully human following the example of Jesus and the saints that have followed in his footsteps.

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It is wonderful to learn more about Judaism and Jesus' immersion in the Judaism of his time and place. I believe, as do many of us, that through the Holy Spirit Jesus had a much deeper understanding of God's message to the Jews of that time. He was able to proclaim this. So I do get that he was a Jew and preached out of his tradition and was true to this tradition. But I find it harder for me to avoid interpreting so much of Jewish Scripture in the light of what I believe today as a Christian. I am now more aware and less apt to take my interpretation as the only one, and that is good. Putting God in a box does not help us. We rely on the Spirit to enlighten us. It is helpful to be open to seeing it with new eyes.

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I love the Creed. My relationship to what it means to me has changed over time, though. It helps us navigate this journey. I think every line has a Scriptural basis for it. The words point to the experience, to a Truth beyond words. Historically, I believe the Creed did a pretty good job of casting the widest net to include most of the belief spectrum at the time. For example, those who held that Jesus is fully human only, or fully divine only, are "corrected," but those who lean either way theologically and everyone in the middle could find common ground in the Creed. I know it's considerably more complicated than that, the nature of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin birth, etc. But overall, I still think it's an inclusive document.

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My husband and I are trying hard to get him out of his current job, and that may involve a giant leap of faith. I'm trying to stay focused on the provision I know God can procure. I was starting to feel anxious the other day about the whole thing, and I just started doing the breath prayer, "God of peace, quiet me." That helped immensely. Even just getting me back on the right track, knowing that God is here.

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When I am a clear thinker and calm, I am amazed at how God works in my life during rough times. I sometimes get blinded and pushed off track by those hard times. I am a slow creature to learn sometimes!

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I haven't written anything for a long time, but I used to write quite a bit. People keep telling me that they enjoy my writings, but recently, I seem to have a real block. It was suggested to me to get an old ratty notebook and use it only for myself, jotting down whatever comes to mind, and looking at it as a product or something to be kept. This process might help to unplug whatever is keeping me from putting things down on paper. I want to get past this block. I have a lot on my plate so it will certainly be a push to do this. I often feel comfortable sharing verbally in a relaxed conversation. I wish someone was there taking notes. So, most of my monthly responses are over the phone with my cluster leader.

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In spite of the hate of the past week with the mass shootings, I still believe that God created all of us for good and for love. May our nation find healing amid so much division and strife.

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Thinking about the stories that Jesus told and hearing about what his life was like as a Jew has broadened my thinking about Jesus' life and the times which I tend to forget.



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

### Jesus Calms the Storm

By

Sr. Brenda Faith



*<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup>He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" Mark 4:35-41*

Isn't it funny how God gives you assignments that will "grow" you? Well, writing this bulletin article is one of those assignments for me. Of course, the topic was not one that impressed me as a potential for my spiritual growth. I thought, "Oh, how lovely. *Jesus calming the storm.*' I can handle that. It will be no problem. The disciples are in the boat, a storm brews and becomes stronger, and Jesus stills the wind and the waves. Poof, all is calm."

Well, little did I know, the time would come when I needed to get the article sent Sr. LaVerne. The deadline was getting closer. I had plenty of time, but as I looked at my schedule for the two weeks

before the deadline, the feeling of urgency arose in me. I begin to think, "I better get on this article because my days are going by fast."

My life has been constant since I began Iona School for Bi-Vocational Ministers. There was always a summer project to fill what you had hoped would be some downtime, always a little more reading to get through, always another essay to write. Then came the General Ordination Exams. You would think I was used to storms, but to be honest, I might call them hurricanes. I always prayed God would calm my storms, or at least get me through them. He always did, but then another storm would come, and there I was again in fear of the result of my stormy situation.

Fear has been my worst enemy my entire life. You would think I could deal with it by now, after 65 years. The scripture above says the disciples were afraid. They had seen so many miracles that demonstrated Jesus' power. Before this incident in Mark, the disciples had witnessed healing after healing and many exorcisms, so why would they be so afraid? Where was their faith? That is precisely what Jesus asked them. "Have you still no faith?"

I am just like those disciples. Why am I still feeling fear when God has come through for me time and time again? I think it is a human thing. We are going to be fearful. We need to remember where to go when we feel overcome with fear. Scripture answers the question: "From where will my help come?" The answer: "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (*Psalms 121:1-2*)

My mother knew my natural tendency to be fearful, and she would quote a verse to me every time I would frantically go to her fearful of this or that happening. She would say, "Brenda, God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." I used to desire a strong faith like Mother's. If I had her faith, I would never be afraid. I would know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God would take care of me. Her name was even Faye, which means Faith. However, I thank God for my mother's faith, because when storms come, it helps me to I recall what she told me, a fearful little girl, many years ago.

I was encouraged by a blog article written by our wise, wonderful, and so spiritual, Carl McColeman. He writes, "My first spiritual director...told me when I was only about 25 years old that my core spiritual issue was learning how to trust. More than three decades later, I'm still working on this one." After reading what Carl said about his difficulty with learning how to trust, I felt like maybe there is still hope for my weak faith.

More reading led me to think about this problem being a lack of surrendering self to God. I want to control all situations myself. It's hard to release that control over my life. However, realizing that I can't control everything the way I'd like, I must relinquish control to the one that is supreme in everything, the one who has the power to do more than I can ask or imagine.

I've thought I had control over my children when they were growing up. They would do things right, because they had been taught right and because they respect me, their mother. They would follow through with correct behavior. HA! HA! Well, I learned about how wrong I was to believe they would always do the right thing. Having believed that brought a lot of guilt; guilt that something went wrong. Also, because I felt that I had control of them, I asked, "Where did I go wrong? It must have

been something I did. Of course, I'm not the only one that feels this way. I hear many parents ask the same question of themselves.

Now I realize, most of the time, that I don't have control of anything, so I might as well surrender it all to God. Surrender to self as being the god of my situation is what I must try to do. Sr. Brenda Faith must die so that Christ can live in me. Thomas A Kempis said, "The more a man dies to himself, the more he begins to live unto God.

In an article from a Patheos blog, Steven Cuss writes about the false self. "Anxiety (fear) tries to shrink the power of the gospel because it wants us to believe another gospel, of false self rather than God. This other gospel is always bad news, always leading to more anxiety. But if we notice when it is in play and learn to die to it, we can flip the power dynamic. We go from being in its silent grip to holding it; and then we can offer it to God and encounter actual visceral freedom and peace of Christ even in the midst of any storm. This, you might imagine, is no small journey and takes some practice ... we experience freedom and life when we deny/crucify/mistrust something inside us that shrinks the gospel. Self gets in the way of the good news of the Gospel of Christ, which is liberation.

Realizing that one is not in control, and an almighty loving God is in control of everything brings peace during the storm. Faith is the absence of fear, and it is God's Love that cast out our fear. God's love and care for us as God's children are what calms our storms of life. In our scripture from Mark of the account of a storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus quieted the strong wind and waves, and the sea was totally calm. He demonstrated that his power is great, even equal to God's, who alone has authority over the sea, storms, chaos, and evil.

Bringing into our reading a Jewish perspective reminds us that God's Spirit hovered over the waters at creation. God parted the sea for the Israelites to escape bondage from the Egyptians. God protected Jonah from death in the sea by having a big fish swallow him and then spit him out onto land. These stories were very familiar to the disciples. The Jewish people feared the water because it could become perilous quickly. These disciples saw the water as being synonymous with the abyss, evil, chaos, and death. But they knew well the old testament account of God having control over the chaotic waters, and they believed that only God had the power to control even the most violent of waters.

In this account of the sea in Mark, the disciples were fearful of the water, but they were also fearful of the great power they witnessed that came from Jesus, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" This power they experienced must have started thoughts of Jesus being from God or even God's Self. This man had control of the evils of water, and in a little while later they would see Jesus exorcising a legion of demons and sending them into pigs and the pigs plunging off a cliff into the water below it, into the abyss. Who was this man? Are the disciples finally getting it? Surely, they could not miss the evidence before their eyes. Could Jesus be God's Son, The Messiah, God's Christ? One thing was for sure; he was more than just a man.

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

1. Sr. Brenda Faith asks the question in the beginning of her article about God giving you an assignment that will “grow you”. Have you experienced that? If so, share an example.
2. The Disciples feel fear greatly as the waves crash against the boat they are in – legitimate physical fear. Fear comes in many forms. Are there other situations where you have known fear beyond the physical kind?
3. Sr. Brenda Faith speaks of fear in many ways and speaks of her Mother who guided her through dark and fearful times. Can you recall someone who has helped you in times of unknown days?
4. In her article she speaks of “control” – we often feel we are in control but Sr. Brenda Faith states “I realized I don’t have control of anything” and her need to surrender to self as being the god of situations. Have you encountered those feelings?
5. Sr. Brenda Faith in her article looks beyond the immediate situation and what thoughts the Disciples would begin to think. “Who is this that even the wind and sea obey him.” Their thoughts had to start to embrace the future that might be ahead as they began this journey with Jesus. An excellent point for us to reflect upon. What comes to you as you place yourself in their positions?
6. Someone said that the words “Do not be afraid” appear in the Bible 365 times which gives us deep comfort. Words for everyday of our year, words to hold on to when fear begins to come upon us.