

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**ANNIVERSARY**  
**December 2019**

**Bulletin Cover: Nativity Scene - photo by Sr. Deborah**

This image of The Nativity was handcrafted by a local native artisan named Marie. Her depiction of the gifts brought to Jesus by natives is beautiful. They brought maize (corn) for food, wood for fire and furs for warmth. Notice the drummer boy as well. Marie lives in Penetanguishene Ontario. The Huron Indians are native to the area and this is where St. Jean de Brebeuf formed a Jesuit settlement. The Pope visited this area many years ago and Marie was commissioned to make a similar scene for him. I am blessed to have found this art form.

.....  
**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. Wendy Samuel [virtue54@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:Callaghan@aol.com), Sr. Christine: [casturges@gmail.com](mailto:casturges@gmail.com) or Sr. Wendy Samuel: [virtue54@outlook.com](mailto: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)**

<b>THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>	
Web Addresses: <a href="http://workersisters.org">workersisters.org</a> <a href="http://workerbrothers.org">workerbrothers.org</a>	
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Community Marketing Group, LLC, Publisher Port Huron, MI Copyright 2019	
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## CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
DECEMBER 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  
James Easter, WBHS  
Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS  
Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS  
Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2019**

December 14

**COPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2020**

January 25 • February 22 • March 28 • April 25 • May 23 • June 27 •  
July 25 • August 22 • September 26 • October 24 • November 21 • December 12

**RETREAT**  
**APRIL 30 - MAY 3, 2020**  
**CELTIC SPRITUALITY**  
**Mercy Center, St. Louis, MO**

**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**

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS CONTINUED...**

Sr. Nancy Teresa (*photo*) and I (*Melissa Bowers, WSHS*) were blessed to co-officiate the memorial service for one of our beloved hospice patients. I wanted to send you the pictures here of Nancy in her habit at the service. She looked wonderful and did such a great job of providing comfort to the family and worship leadership for this meaningful memorial service. It was an honor to co-officiate with her, and the family was so touched by her ministry to their beloved mother!

*Melissa Bowers is the Chaplain at Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care*



**In December we celebrate the 47th Anniversary of the founding of  
Workers Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.**

## **The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit**

### ***The Companion Life Commitment from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service***

A Companion is a person under a Rule of Life who will

- Pray daily for The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer special intention for the Community at a weekly Eucharist or Corporate Worship.
- Keep informed about the growth and development of the Community.
- Send a yearly letter on the Feast of Pentecost to the Companion Coordinator.
- Make a yearly contribution to the Community.
- Cultivate a continuing awareness of their relationship with God which extends to the nurture of body, mind and spirit.

### ***The Lay Worker Life Commitment (This includes Sisters and Brothers) from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service***

I commit myself for life to a covenant relationship with God through the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit. I hold as essential to our Rule, Mission, and Community Life, our fourfold commitment. I therefore dedicate myself to Jesus Christ, to the Fruit of the Spirit, to Mission and to Ministry.

From the Table of Contents of the Rule of Life for Lay Workers

- Daily Personal Prayer
- Daily Communal Prayer
- Daily Reading of the Sacred Scriptures
- Daily Participation in an Act of the Fruit of the Spirit
- Receive Communion Weekly (if available)
- Monthly Communication with the Community by Letter
- Monthly Financial Contribution to the Community
- Active Participation in the Life of the WSHS/WBHS Community
- Active Participation in the Life of the Church

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit

***The Friend Life Commitment  
from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service***

*Although WSHS Friends do not make a life commitment, we want to remember their role in WSHS and thank them for their ongoing prayers for the Community.*

A Friend is a person who:

- Is interested in the development and growth of Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.
- Is committed to praying for the Community.
- Is on a personal pilgrimage.
- Desires to learn more from the life journeys of others.
- Wishes to receive the thoughts, prayers and caring concerns of this Community.
- Makes an annual contribution.
- Receives and wears the Community pin.

## **The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit Annual Renewal of Commitment**

### **OFFICIANT:**

In recognition that:

December 1972 is the anniversary of the founding of The Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit and December 1979 is the beginning of The Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit, would you now reaffirm your commitment in this Community?

### **COMMUNITY:**

Recognizing the continuing presence of God in the process of my spiritual growth, and honoring my commitment which I made for life, I pause to reflect upon its meaning and seek revitalization in living it out.

I will continue to be faithful and obedient to my Rule of Life.  
I will continue to reflect on my personal and spiritual growth.  
I will continue to encourage and support the members of the Community and our leadership.  
I will endeavor to continue active participation in the life of the church and represent Jesus Christ as his servant in a caring compassionate manner in this suffering world.

**OFFICIANT:** Would you now repeat the Covenant of our Community?

### **COMMUNITY:**

We, the Community of the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit, in adoration of God and in thanksgiving for God's protective love for us do covenant faithfully to trust in God's unconditional grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As we participate in Jesus Christ's vision of unity, may we become his holy people, respond as we are called by the promptings of the Holy Spirit to show forth fruit, and, in obedience to His command, go forth into the world.

### **OFFICIANT:**

May Almighty God, who has called you to serve in this holy life, give you power to fulfill your commitment through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

*December 2019*



## HAITI

As a Community, let us continue keeping our Sisters, Brothers, children and all our Haitian loved ones in our continued prayers, hoping that they are protected from harm.

In the month of October, we were able to ship two cases of water tablets to Haiti. Let us hope that the tablets help to alleviate cholera and other diseases.

Our continued thanks to everyone in our Community, along with churches and individuals, for their faithful support of our Haiti Mission.

*Sr. Alexandra Francis*



## FROM YOUR DIRECTORS



## 2019 CO-DIRECTORS' REPORT

**Positions in the Community and current staff 2019****American Board of Directors**

President - Sr. Nancy Teresa  
 Secretary - Fr. Harry Firth  
 Assoc. Secretary - Deloss McKnight  
 Treasurer - Sr. Nancy Teresa

**Canadian Board of Directors**

President – Sr. Deborah  
 Vice President – Sr. Carol Matthew  
 Secretary - Sr. Wendy Samuel  
 Treasurer – Br. David

**Elected members:**

Sr. LaVerne Peter  
 Fr. Harry Firth  
 Br. Raymond Gregory  
 DeLoss McKnight  
 Sr. Pam Raphael

**Elected members:**

Sr. Helen Joseph  
 Sr. Jane Bartimaeus  
 Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley

**By virtue of office:**

American Director  
 Canadian Director  
 Prioress

**By virtue of office:**

American Director  
 Canadian Director  
 Prioress

**Prioress:** Sister LaVerne Peter, WSHS

**Co-Directors:** Sr. Christine, WSHS and Sr. Wendy Samuel, WSHS

**Historian:** Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS

**Community Chaplain:** Rev. Jaclyn Sheldon, Companion, WSHS

**Chapter:** see current Directory List

**Community Ecclesiastical Visitors:**

The Rt. Rev Peter Fenty WSHS/WBHS – Canada, Australia  
 The Rt. Rev Barry R. Howe, Friend, WSHS/WBHS – United States, Haiti

**Director of Formation and Training:** Sr. Helen Joseph, WSHS

**Director of Admissions:** Sr. Lucia, WSHS

**Coordinator of Worker Applicants:** Sr. Patsy Anne, WSHS

**Acting Coordinator of Lay Worker Program:** Sr. Helen Joseph, WSHS

**Coordinator of Novices:** Sr. Nancy Clare, WSHS

**Coordinator of Companion and Friends:** Sr. Pam Raphael, WSHS

**Coordinator of International Affairs:** Sr. Carol Matthew WSHS

**Provincials:**

Eastern Province – Sr. Barbara Veronica, WSHS  
 Central Province - Sr. Dorothy Cecilia, WSHS  
 Southern Province - Sr. Brenda Faith, WSHS  
 Western Province - Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

**Cluster Leaders and Mentors** - see current Directory

**Community Numbers:**

Sisters.....	45	(45 Previous Year)
Novices .....	0	(1 Previous Year)
Workers, WSHS.....	15	(15 Previous Year)
Worker Applicants, WSHS.....	1	(1 Previous Year)
Brothers .....	6	(7 Previous Year)
Workers, WBHS .....	3	(3 Previous Year)
Worker Applicants, WBHS .....	0	(0 Previous Year)
Companions.....	24	(26 Previous Year)
Companion Applicants .....	1	(0 Previous Year)
Friends .....	23	(25 Previous Year)
Friend Applicants .....	0	(3 Previous Year)

102 residents of the United States

13 residents of Canada

1 resident in Australia

2 residents of Haiti: *The Sisters of St. Margaret, Friends & Br. Frantz Benedict*

**Total 118 Previous Year 130**

We had a few members that we have not heard from in several years. We had kept them on our membership list and continued to stay in contact by sending them the monthly Bulletins. This past year we decided it would be wise to write and ask them if they still wanted to continue their relationship with WSHS. Some replied yes and others explained they had experienced life changes and are now on different paths. We have graciously and prayerfully accepted their decisions and said good-bye with our blessings.

**New Sisters:** Sr. Shirley Evangeline

**New Brothers:** None

**New Novices:** None

**New Lay Worker Applicants:** Letty Guevara-Cuence

**New Lay Workers:** None

**New Companions:** None

**New Companion Applicants:** Erin Diericx

**New Friend Applicants:** None

**New Friends:** Sandra Bowers

Communion of Saints ..... 94 (93) Previous Year

TOTAL (*including Communion of Saints*) ..... 212 (223) Previous Year

### **Communion of Saints**

Sr. Janet Rose, WSHS – July 6, 2019

### **Release and/or Writ of Dispensation**

**Close of Applicancy** - none

### **Chapter Meetings**

Each Fall the Chapter meets to discuss the business of the Community and to pray and flesh out our next year's theme. This *Chapter Retreat* is a time of listening, planning and acting on the promptings of The Holy Spirit in governing the direction and future of Our Community. Our Chapter is supported in prayer by the entire Community during this Retreat.

During our Annual Retreat, Chapter meets each morning before the day begins to hold our Community in Prayer.

### **New Chapter Members:**

Sr. Patsy Anne, Applicant Coordinator, Sr. Wendy Samuel, Canadian Director

**Board of Directors Meetings**

The American Board of Directors meets at Fall Chapter. Each spring the Canadian Board of Directors meets at the annual Community Retreat. Reports from each Board are shared.

**Monthly Corporate Communion**

Corporate Communion is held monthly where members are within physical proximity of others. The past year Corporate Communion were held in:

Michigan USA • Kansas City, Missouri • Illinois  
Southern Missouri • Pleasant Hill, Tennessee • Tucson, Arizona  
Southern Ontario, Canada

**Informal Gatherings of our Community**

Gatherings are held when 2 or 3 members are visiting in the area with other members of our Community. This takes place in various States and Provinces.

**The Worker Sisters/Brothers of the Holy Spirit Bulletin**

As we continue to grow internationally with many members living apart from each other, the monthly Bulletin is our primary source of communication and a vital link to each other across the miles.

**We are thankful for the regular contributions to our Bulletin as follows:**

*News Notes and Prayer Lists* - Br. Ephrem

*Monthly Calendars* - Shirley Pace, WSHS

*Haiti Articles* - Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS

*Spiritual Sharing and Mission and Ministry* - compiled by our Provincials

*Bulletin Preparation and Proofing* - Sr. Christine, Sr. Deborah, Sr. Sharron Magdalene

*Annual Contribution Commitment Letter* - Sr. Nancy Teresa, Treasurer

We are also thankful to Sr. Dorothy Gregory for making our habits as required and for Sr. Barbara Rebecca for ordering golf shirts.

In addition, the following members of our Community and others have committed their time and energy writing articles for our Bulletin this year:

Sr. LaVerne Peter, Sr. Wendy Martha, Ted Wilson, Sr. Barbara Veronica, Sr. Pam Raphael, Sr. Nancy Teresa, Sr. Christine, Sr. Wendy Samuel, Sr. Brenda Faith, Sr. Nancy Clare, and Sr. Lucia

**2019 Theme – Our 46th Year****The Glory of Israel: Jewish Keys to the Spirituality of Christ*****Monthly Bulletin Topics:***

January.....	Traveling the Road with Rabbi Jesus
February.....	The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
March .....	Where has our Son gone?
April.....	The Loaves and Fishes
May.....	The Healing Power of JesusThe Jewish Prayer Shawl
June.....	I want to see Rabbi Jesus

July.....	Jesus Begins His Public Ministry
August.....	The Welcoming Humanity of Christ
September .....	Jesus Calms a Storm
October.....	Jesus the Fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets
November .....	All Belong to God
December.....	Anniversary and Renewal of our Life Commitment to our Community

### **46th Retreat: Mercy Center, St. Louis, Missouri - April 11-14, 2019**

**Retreat Director:** Br. David

**Retreat Musicians:** Br. Peter Nicholas, Br. David, Sr. Catherine Marie

**Presenter:** Carl McColman, Friend, WSHS

**Presentation Saturday Afternoon:** Haiti Clean Water Presentation – Alexandra Zarris, Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley

**Thursday Taize & Memorial Service:** Led by Sr. LaVerne Peter

#### **Friday Holy Eucharist and Service of Admission/Investiture:**

**Celebrant:** The Rt. Reverend Barry Howe, Ecclesiastical Visitor, USA

**Deacons:** The Rev. Patsy Anne, Sr. Kathleen Columb

**Homily:** The Rt. Reverend Barry Howe, Ecclesiastical Visitor, USA

**Verger:** Br. Raymond Gregory

#### **Saturday Healing Service**

**Celebrant:** The Rt. Reverend Barry Howe, ecclesiastical Visitor, USA

**Assisting:** Sr. Brenda Faith

**Deacons:** Sr. Wendy Martha, The Rev. Leticia Guevara-Cuence, Comp

**Homily:** Sr. Deborah

**Verger:** Br. Raymond Gregory

#### **Sunday Holy Eucharist**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. James Easter

**Homily:** The Rt. Reverend Barry Howe, Ecclesiastical Visitor, USA

**Verger:** Br. Raymond Gregory

#### **Yellow Letters**

Our monthly Yellow letter is a means of communication between Cluster Leaders and members. It affords each member the opportunity to reflect upon his or her spiritual journey during the past month. Members are also asked to respond to the article relating to the topic of the month. The writing of the Yellow letter is part of the Rule and discipline of the Community.

#### **Provincial and Cluster Leader Reports**

Twice a year Cluster Leaders report on the activity of their Cluster and on each individual member's spiritual journey and commitment to the *Rule of Life*. Cluster Leaders send their reports to their Provincial, who forwards them to the respective Directors

**Other forms of Communication**

Our Website is a link to the world and is a continual work in progress. [www.workersisters.org](http://www.workersisters.org), [www.workerbrothers.org](http://www.workerbrothers.org).

Br. David, WBHS forwards e-mail emergency prayer requests to Brothers, Sisters, Workers and Applicants. Marilyn Propp, WSHS forwards the prayer requests to Companions and Friends. Those members not on e-mail are contacted by telephone or mailed copies of the request. This method of communicating our prayer requests is working well.

A monthly prayer list is also printed and included in the *Bulletin*. This list contains requests for prayer by Community members, for other Community members, non-Community friends and family, and for the world.

Sister Charlotte Mary keeps in touch with the families of Our Communion of Saints with cards on the anniversary of their deaths.

**Haiti Clean Water Project**

We continue this year with the Haiti Clean Water Project. Our members are purchasing water purification tablets and having them shipped to Rev. Frantz Cole for his ministry in Haiti. Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley, WSHS takes delivery from a source in Canada and ships them to Haiti monthly. Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS coordinates the project.

**Quilts**

Quilts for children are also being made by members of our Community and sent to Br. Frantz Benedict for distribution. Sr. Alison Constance, WSHS coordinates this project.

**Retreat 2020 will be held at****The Mercy Center****St. Louis, Missouri****April 29-May 3, 2020****Theme:** Celtic Spirituality**Presenter:** Carl McColman**Chapter 2020 will be held at****Conception Abbey****Conception, Missouri****Fall of 2020**

*Respectfully submitted by,*

*Sr. Christine, Co-Director, WSHS*

*Sr. Wendy Samuel, Co-Director, WSHS*




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**NEWS NOTES**

**Leanne Martinez:** I am always so busy as the weeks just roll into each other. I still have my mom which is a blessing. Taking care of my parents takes up most of my time. Can't believe the summer has come and gone. I need to stay more in touch. Balance is important.

**Sr. Paula Adelaide:** I recently attended a performance of an oratorio entitled "Considering Matthew Shepard" commemorating the twentieth anniversary of his death. It wasn't so much a performance as a pilgrimage. The text, compiled by composer Craig Hella Johnson, included such diverse sources as Hildegard von Bingen, Rabindranath Tagore, Hafiz, Lesléa Newman, the Bible, contemporary news reports, and poems written by Matthew Shepard that were shared by his mother. The journey is a strong affirmation of life, of the power of turning from despair to hope and from hate to love. I hope it will be sung often and will reach many people.

**Sr. Arnitta Monica:** The Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke (a former Executive Assistant to the Rector at Trinity Wall Street, 2001-2008, as Missioner to St. Paul's Chapel at Ground Zero following the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in 2001, and a pioneer in the Addictions Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church) spent the weekend with us at St. Paul's, K St., Washington DC. At a prayer luncheon on Saturday, he talked about his missions to India, "Passage to India: A Spirituality of Pilgrimage." He explained the difference between a vacation and a pilgrimage. On Sunday, he preached about "Addiction: A Family Disease" and facilitated the Rector's Forum. He is currently an Associate Priest at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Sr. Lucia:** I am going to Diocesan Convention for the first time as a delegate. Just wanted to see what is going on and how I fit. I started as an Education for Ministry (EFM) co-mentor in September and am enjoying the group. They are diverse and they surprise me weekly. I'm enjoying having family nearer. My husband's brother and his wife live forty minutes away in the mountains. Usually we go up on Sundays for barbecue and watch the elk come down in their community. Our last visit, they were bugling - so neat.




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**SPIRITUAL SHARING**

Getting older has given me a clearer perspective and more appreciation for life and people in general. I sometimes despair when I read and listen to the news of climate destruction but at the same time, I find I am appreciating nature's beauty in a deeper and more grateful way – not taking as much for granted and praying that my grandchildren, and beyond, will be able to enjoy those delights as I have been able to do. I pray that we will come together and start working together to save this world that is so lovely.

\*\*\*\*\*

God is present in the small things - like the new story my daughter is writing. I marvel at her literary skills, and wonder (a bit pridefully) where it will take her. Or in the fact that she asked for a pedicure with just me for her birthday. Or the fact that my son is thriving in his activities and in school and that both of them are rather self-sufficient at their young ages. They value time with us and time together.

\*\*\*\*\*

I only hope that with all the blessings bestowed upon us that we are gracious enough to our Father for giving them. My prayer is that as we move to the new church, the kids will get a better sense of good theology and learn to be Christ's hands and feet in this world. I am humbled by how he has answered my cries for help - not at all what I was expecting, and there's still a long way to go, but I am hopeful, and I am faithful.

\*\*\*\*\*

God has slowly worked on my heart over the years and I now view the "Law" more as a beautiful way of discovering the truth about God's love. God is no longer distant and shallow. He is now within me and embracing me, no matter what life throws my way.

\*\*\*\*\*

I see Jesus as coming to earth as a merciful way to correct our misconceptions about God. For centuries, God gave us the opportunity to learn more about Him through the Law and the Prophets. Yet, no matter how hard we strove to obey and understand God, we just kept missing the mark. So Jesus came into our world, not to appease an angry God who was fed up with us, but to reveal the loving face of God to us. Jesus lived His life in a way that showed us exactly what the Law and Prophets were pointing at all along. They show us the way of Love. That is how I see Jesus as the Fulfiller of the Law and the Prophets.

\*\*\*\*\*

A few years ago, I would have only seen Jesus as somber and determined. However, once I learned to appreciate the church's cycle of feasting and fasting, my eyes were opened to the sacredness of celebrating life, sharing meals with friends, and finding a place in a community that stretches your faith. So yes, I can see Jesus dancing, laughing, and getting into heated debates with friends. I can also see him listening to women with sick children, grieving over the loss of a best friend, and sharing drinks with His disciples at the end of a long day.

\*\*\*\*\*

Inspiration comes from unexpected sources! The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra was in town with a concert titled "The Galaxy's Greatest Hits." It was mostly movie music (Star Wars, Star Trek, 2001, E.T., etc) with some classics thrown in, like Holst's The Planets. What made it special was a huge screen suspended over the orchestra on which were projected NASA photos and videos of space, the galaxy, and beyond. All I could think was God created ALL of THAT! And that same God knows and loves every single one of us. It takes my breath away.

\*\*\*\*\*

I love the thought of being saturated in prayer! I have not yet achieved that but I hope I'm getting closer. God is indeed always there, like the air we breathe, or the gravity that holds us to the ground, or the sun that provides all the energy on Earth.

\*\*\*\*\*

The thought of thanking God, upon waking, that my soul has been returned to me was a surprise; it had never occurred to me that my soul might leave me while I'm sleeping. Isn't it always there? Rather, I like the way I heard about it in WSHS one year, unfortunately I cannot remember who it was who told me this. Apparently one of the earliest Sisters (someone I never met) woke up each morning and

said, "Good morning, Jesus!" Some mornings I wake up and think that first. I sing this song sometimes and wish we could sing it more often at Retreat:

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;  
I can feel his holy power and his grace.  
I can hear the rush of angel wings. I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

\*\*\*\*\*

I have a set of cassette tapes by the Jews for Jesus musical troupe, The Liberated Wailing Wall. (Yes, that's their name!) I cannot read the Shema without hearing the confident, triumphant, joyful way they sing it! Yes, it's carved into my memory. Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad! Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One!

\*\*\*\*\*

I see too often people using the bible as a way of hating or being above others around them. It is written in the bible so anyone who doesn't follow my way is going to hell. This hurts me as Jesus' message was of love. He came to show us what the law really meant and by looking at it only through the law we're missing the point. He led us into a new way of looking at the Word and how our new journey would bring about a great change in us.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jesus argued a lot with the religious leaders of his time. He also showed love to those around him trying to point them in a different direction. His love of life showed in everything he did. He would really be a radical today. Called a hippie from the past. We are materialistic in our thinking and Jesus would call us out on this. Many would fight him on their beliefs as they are not consistent with our views. We use our belief in the bible as a hammer instead of a feather of love. We judge people who are different causing untold harm. Jesus would be laughed at and despised in today's age.

\*\*\*\*\*

On my way home from church Sunday, I heard a young girl on my bus crying on the telephone. She had just left George Washington University Hospital where she stayed in the ICU with her husband for the past few days and nights. She was going somewhere to get her baby. The baby had run out of formula and diapers and the family member/friend did not have any money. The young mother's wallet was locked in the totaled car that the police had towed somewhere. She didn't have any money and nobody that she called could help her. I had to say something. I told her I couldn't help hearing what was being said. She told me that her husband was driving (she and the baby weren't in the car), and a drunk driver hit him head on. Her husband is paralyzed from the neck down. The doctors couldn't operate until the swelling went down. They couldn't tell her if they thought he would live. I didn't have any money with me, but we went to an ATM near my transfer bus stop. I took a chance that this wasn't a scam or that I wouldn't be mugged. We both said that God works in mysterious ways. I was supposed to have been on the bus after the one she was on, but I decided to get on that bus. It had paused at the stop for a long time. I thought that it might have been ahead of its schedule. If I had waited to get on the next bus, I would have missed her. I have no way of knowing if her husband is still alive.

\*\*\*\*\*

I started reading a hymn each morning and evening as a prayer. I found that each evening as I began to read, one hymn just led to another. I would say to myself "just one more" and before I knew it the evening had gone and it was midnight. I find the words of the hymns to be prayerful and uplifting and time would just go by. It is a very rewarding time of prayer.

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Since our topic this year is the Jewish Jesus, I wanted to share the Jewish wedding I attended last weekend. My grandson married a Jewish woman and the ceremony was beautiful. The parts of the wedding were: Kebubah: the marriage contract, signed by the couple before the ceremony. This goes back over 2000 years. The Chuppah: a canopy with no walls, reflecting the idea that family and friends will always be welcome in their home. Kiddushin: Blessing over the wine (which the couple share) symbolizing joy and the sanctification of a celebration. Exchanging rings as a token of their endless love. Nisuin: (Seven Blessings) the wedding liturgy symbolizing the seven days of creation and the newest creation of this wedding. Breaking of the Glass: represents the destruction of the Temple and also a reminder that life is fragile and even in times of great joy, we must not forget the Jewish people's journey through history. The sound of the glass breaking brings shouts of "Mazel Tov" from everyone (good fortune). Yichud: Immediately after the ceremony, the couple adjourns to a private room for their first few moments together as husband and wife. My impression: The whole event was filled with joy; we danced the Horah with great enthusiasm and celebrated late into the night.

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I used to feel I was in control, but after accepting Christ, I am free of this problem.

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I am so grateful to receive the monthly bulletin in paper form! As I am somewhat "computer challenged" these days. My son's wife has been helping me with a computer program designed for folks like me. Grateful for all the help (need all the help I can get)!

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My main ministry is as a Eucharistic Visitor for three people from church. One person I visit almost weekly and the other couple I visit once a month. I think I get more nourishment than they do. I try to limit my visit to an hour and always wish people would come with me. My priest does come with me occasionally, or if I think the people are having issues. Just wish people would come to visit with me when I go to the weekly person. When I am visiting the Spirit is obviously there at times. We both feel it and it is wonderful.