

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**ALL BELONG TO GOD**  
**November 2019**

**Bulletin Cover: All Belong To God**

**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](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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Community Marketing Group, LLC, Publisher  
Port Huron, MI Copyright 2019

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## CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
NOVEMBER 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**

November 23 • December 14

**RETREAT**  
**APRIL 30 - MAY 3, 2020**  
**CELTIC SPIRITUALITY**  
**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...**

We are delighted to announce that Melissa George was ordained transitional deacon at All Saints Episcopal Church, Nevada, Missouri, on October 11, 2019. In six months, Melissa will be ordained priest. Sr. Nancy Clare, Sr. Barbara Veronica, Sr. Kathleen Columb and James Easter, WBHS attended the service. Both Melissa and her mother, Sr. Mary Govan appreciated having members of our Community join them for this special occasion.

*Left to right: Sr. Mary Govan, Deacon Melissa, Sr. Barbara Veronica, Sr. Nancy Clare*



*Left to right: Sr. Kathleen Columb, Sr. Barbara Veronica, James Easter and Sr. Nancy Clare*



**COMMUNITY CHANGES**

*Please make the following alterations to your Green Sheets:*



**NEW WORKER APPLICANT – KAELYNN JUDD**

Kaelynn Judd  
201 Warren Avenue  
Lynchburg, VA 24501  
Phone: 540-296-4183  
Email: kaequeen@gmail.com  
Birthday: August 5

Please welcome Kaelynn Judd, our new Lay Worker Applicant. Kaelynn was born in Lynchburg VA. She graduated from Liberty College with an associ-

ate in religion and psychology. Kaelynn is currently a stay at home mom and is in school to become an EMT. She volunteers as a crisis counselor. She speaks and reads both Spanish and Portuguese. Her hobbies are reading, writing, painting and traveling. She loves nature walks and playing with her children. Kaelynn loves studying religions and theology.

Kaelynn lives in Lynchburg VA with her husband Spencer, daughters Renee Hope, Nora Faith, and twin toddlers Aiden Spencer and Gideon Rose.



#### **NEW WORKER APPLICANT – KRISTA BAKER**

Krista Baker  
 19796 White Oak Trail  
 Kirksville, MO 63501  
 Home Phone: 660-665-3315  
 Cell Phone: 660-676-9730  
 Email: kristab@cableone.net  
 Birthday: February 23

Please welcome Krista Baker, our new Lay Worker Applicant. Krista was born in Ogden, Utah. She grew up in an Army family. She graduated from High School in Loveland, CO and graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education. She attends Trinity Episcopal Church in Kirksville MO. She is currently the Bishop's Warden, on the Outreach Committee, Finance Committee and on the Diocese of Missouri Investment Trust Council.

Krista retired from Bell South in 2005 with experience as an engineer and software programmer. Krista is the Director/Treasurer of the Adair County Humane Society. She enjoys reading, quilting, crochet, knitting and felting. These bring her joy. She has a son and grandson in Florida, stepdaughter and her husband and grandson in Kansas, and a stepson and his wife in Alabama. She lives in Kirksville MO. with her husband, Timothy, and three rescue German shepherd fur-babies.



#### **HAITI**

Let us continue to pray for our Sisters and Brothers in Haiti along with all the children. Pray they are safe and have clean water to help alleviate cholera and other diseases.

In the month of September, we were able to ship a case of water tablets to Haiti. We thank all of our Community for their dedication and support of our Haiti Mission along with other churches and individuals.

We appreciate Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley's continued dedication in her mission of shipping the water tablets to Haiti in a timely manner.



## NEWS NOTES

**Sr. Lucia:** I started as co-mentor of my Education for Ministry group last Monday and it is exciting. Our new priest also started Bible Study using the book THE PATH and we had twenty-five people. This is the largest group we have ever had; so exciting! Father Joseph is a good speaker, teacher, and invites all to participate. We even had new members at the class. I have been so excited about our local church since he has arrived. We can talk about the community (He had spent time at SSJE to explore becoming a monk, so he understands communities). I love seeing people so excited about the local church and not looking burnt out.

**Br. Ephrem:** I am moving soon from Connecticut back to Massachusetts. It has been a time of great transition and I am so grateful to our Community for being truly an anchor of stability in my life. Fortunately, the Community Garden we started here in Willimantic, Connecticut twelve years ago is in very good hands!



## COMMUNION OF SAINTS

### Remembering Sr. Janet Rose, WSHS *By Glenn Risse, Companion, WSHS*



Janet was born Janet Marie Wyatt on April 20, 1941 in Detroit, Michigan. Her mother was a single mom since her father was believed to have died in the military shortly after Janet was born.

Janet's life story was indeed a spiritual journey. She was raised Catholic, and sent to Catholic schools through high school, influenced primarily by her Irish Catholic grandmother, until she died of cancer when Janet was just over 9 years, which was devastating. Janet's mother, who worked full time, and an aunt helped fill the gap. Janet and her mother grew much closer during Janet's high school years. She wanted very much to join a Catholic religious order of sisters after graduation.

However, her mother strongly objected, so she got married instead, although not to a man her mother approved of. Over the next years they had five children, and finally divorced after fourteen years, due to what became an intolerable situation.

Janet did the very best she could to raise her children on her own, while working to support them, and depending on a young family friend and an older neighbor lady, as the older children entered their

teens. While they were in high school, Janet started college part time, at a local Catholic college, where she eventually earned an Associate degree in Gerontology, and a B.A. in Sociology. She became a long time employee in social work positions with the State of Michigan, and retired in 1996 due to a work related injury.

After we had known each other for about five years, and after I had made the difficult decision to leave the Catholic priesthood, Janet and I married in 1979. Becoming a step-parent is one you grow into, and Janet was a tremendous support in this process. We love and enjoy the five adult children and five grandchildren very much. Janet and I would have been married forty years in October, a milestone we almost reached.

Janet wrote in her 2011 story, during the final year she was a Novice: “As I continue on life’s journey, I know I have been transformed by my encounters with the Episcopal Church and especially the Worker Sisters and Brothers. Both have given me a source of life-nurture, meaning and hope, through companionship, open sharing, and a Pastor who opens doors to continued learning and understanding as an adult Christian. Since I was introduced to Trinity Episcopal Church five and a half years ago (now 13 or 14 years) my entire view of a liturgical church has changed to a more meaningful experience. About a year later, I became interested in the Worker Sisters and Brothers Community and was accepted as an applicant. My entire spiritual life has been enhanced, challenged and introduced to a more heightened reality of spiritual growth, through learning and especially through experiencing the incredible spiritual life-force of the Holy Spirit in others, particularly our Community, and in my own life. It is truly a wonderful feeling to belong to a Community that is invested in the very beliefs that are central to my spiritual life and growth.”

I can think of no better way to honor Janet’s memory than by using her own words. Janet completed her Novitiate in 2012, and was happily admitted as a Worker Sister of the Holy Spirit. This was the fulfillment of a life-long dream of belonging to such a Community.

Janet experienced many serious health problems in her life, especially during the past ten to fifteen years, but persevered courageously throughout. She always retained a sense of humor, which she attributed to her Irish background. She was given the gift of music from her early years with piano, a grandmother who often played the piano, and her musician uncle. Janet joined church choirs and choral groups over many years, and loved to play her piano. She even did some composing. She loved decorating, and so assumed the decoration of various church rooms with the changing of the seasons. She considered these as her gift to the church community. After retiring from the State, Janet shared her talents and abilities whenever possible. She often volunteered for community projects and events, teaching classes, counseling, and directing a women’s shelter, just to mention a few.

Janet was the love of my life, and I will always miss her. Although Janet has passed from this world, and is with her Lord, where there is no pain or sorrow, but only joy, I feel that she is with me in Spirit and watching over me with love. That is some comfort to me.



## SPIRITUAL SHARING

Sr. Wendy's article on the welcoming humanity of Jesus did not connect with me until the last paragraph where she wrote about the words of Abba Father and a prayer from the book "ABBA FATHER". It is one thing to accept God as Father, Savior and Lord but it is very difficult to think that God wants to spend time with me, walk with me and to be my friend and confidant. I am afraid, why would God want to spend time with me. I know I can't do anything without him, I am thankful for all the wonderful blessings that I have received from him.

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I see Jesus laughing, crying and becoming angry when he looks at the world and all its problems and the continuing fighting among nations over petty items. I think of Gulliver's travels in which the two kingdoms went to war over which end of an egg to open – the small or large. We see the same things in today's world, people looking for power and money any way they can obtain them. Come Lord Jesus fill our hearts, help us to know that you are in charge always. Amen

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Growing up a Roman Catholic, I was given an image of saints, Jesus, God, in a "stained glass window". Far removed from earthly existence, to be worshiped or venerated only at a distance. I have struggled to consider Jesus as a "guy to spend time with". But I believe that he must have been a people magnet. Not just by spouting profound spiritual truths and healing the sick, but also someone to hang around with. I don't think he could have been living in a "stained glass window" and manage to attract all of those followers

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The point of The Incarnation was to have God living with us, pitching his tent in our camp site. Not far away, but right here in our dirty world, with all of the human suffering, potential, and infrequent triumphs. I think Jesus has compassion for us, even when we refuse to put God and our neighbors

“first.” Yes, He would tell us to focus on the important stuff, not how to break an egg. Jesus came to make God “real” for us thick-headed humans. So, yes, I believe He wants to spend time with us, tiny, insignificant, petty folks. Isn’t it amazing!

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I still find myself angry at God for all these woes, even though I came through some of them with positive results. I am afraid the positives won’t last long and I will be back into the storm. I trust nothing good. How do I turn all this over to Him and accept whatever the outcome? This comes down to faith and I have lost a lot of mine. The storm almost feels normal now. So now I find myself trying to find my belief again. It will take time and learning to trust all over again. When it came to learning about God at home it was not something talked about. We went to church on Sunday and that was it. I found my faith through wonderful priests and spiritual leaders. I no longer have that in my life with the exception of Worker Sisters. I have lately felt lost even from them. It will take time to relearn and accept what will be, will be. I cannot change a thing no matter how hard I try. I must give the good and the bad over to God as I use to be able to do. I will get back there but it will take time and the one thing I have little of, trust

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During this liturgical “ordinary time,” my church is embarking on a program to encourage daily prayer. We signed up for small groups, and each group commits to reading the daily office at a mutually agreeable time. Twice a week we join a conference call to read together. At first using the phone was a bit awkward and our unison reading was notably ragged, but we’re getting better at it. I find it very meaningful to hear the other voices even though I’m alone in my apartment, and this actually makes it easier to read the office at that same time on the non-phone days as well.

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The 4th book of the bible, Numbers, says the tassels are “to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord.” They are reminders. We have so many in our culture: statues and symbols, pictures and posters, candles and crosses. After a while it becomes easy to look at them without really seeing them. I wonder if the rarity of the tassels helped wearers to be more aware. Would their specialness have given the tassels more gravitas? Or did the wearers of Jesus’ time also begin to take them for granted? And how can I be more aware of God and God’s commandments in my own life?

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The white prayer shawl trimmed with blue thread was special in Jesus’ time. Today we have a multitude of fabrics, natural and synthetic, in a complete spectrum of colors. I confess I cherish them for their human associations. They make me feel loved. I need to intentionally expand this feeling and recognize human love as a tiny reflection of God’s immense love.

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References to protecting wings always remind me of an experience from some years ago. When Harley (my wonderful bird) was a baby, only a few months old, she was sitting on my desk while I worked. We were near a sliding glass patio door. I have no idea what startled her (I didn’t see or hear anything) but suddenly she gave a frantic squawk, plunged into my lap, and buried her head under my elbow. Some instinct told her where to seek safety. It was literally a leap of faith. I just sat there, cuddling her and repeating, “It’s okay. You’re safe.” I think that somewhere deep inside, each of us has that same instinct. An old saying is “there are no atheists in foxholes.” A friend of mine tells of being in a violently life-threatening situation. As she tells it, “Back then I wasn’t a Christian or anything, but I blurted out ‘God help me!’” Today she is a pastor. My own takeaway from Harley’s instinctive trust is that I want always to remain a child under God’s protecting wings and rejoice in the sureness that God is always saying, “It’s okay. You’re safe here.”

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This month has been a trial of faith and trust. My husband will resign from his job today, after receiving two offers for part time work. We have decided that his current position is so toxic, and even after deciding to make this change, my husband is a different man. Quality of life has drastically improved. He no longer lives as though he hates the world and everyone in it. My prayers are filled with requests for guidance and peace and for a sense that this is the right thing. God has certainly been looking out for us, and for that I am grateful.

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Regarding Sr. Brenda's first question about being given an assignment that will "grow you", I'm not sure there would be much growth if we sometimes weren't pushed a bit. Others may see in us more strength and talent than we ourselves see and of course our Lord sees the full potential we each have, to always be more. But thankfully, even when we don't step out, He loves us just the same.

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The question about others who have supported us in times of fear or crisis spoke to me, reminding me of an "angel" who was there for me in a very dark stage of my life. She was a few years older than I, and someone who also had lived through an alcoholic marriage and was then living independently. We were both drawn to meet weekly for centering prayer. She was a wonderful role model for me. She opened her house to me to stay at while she was on one of her road trips. She even stocked it with good food should I need a break from the situation in which I was living. My job at that time was my only time to be away from him and I needed that time away. I did not go to her home over that weekend, but it was there. I had a key and I knew it had been lovingly prepared for me as a retreat. I shall always be grateful to her and treasure a beautiful little rose quartz dove that she carved for me.

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I felt that I had fallen out of the boat and was drowning! One of the worst periods of my life was in the months of the move: packing alone, handling everything alone, lost. With my two college degrees, I didn't think my life would turn out the way that it did. I compared myself to others who were in difficulty. I felt as if I was an "indoor" homeless person. I couldn't let my mother be homeless or be left in a nursing home with no quality of life at 93. I was "resuscitated" and CALMED by what I know as my True Self. People were constantly praying for me and my family; helping me with contributions. My niece made a place for me to sleep. Our Community never stopped caring.

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I continue to help an elderly man on Mondays and Fridays between 5 and 8 PM. I am supposed to help him with meal preparation and light housekeeping but what I mostly do is be a friend to him and listen to him while he recounts stories from his past life. What I have learned from him, interestingly enough, is not to put myself down. He is often putting himself down and saying that he has been a complete failure. I keep telling him of the illogic of his self-denigration. I hope he is listening and I hope I am listening to what I am say myself since I too have a tendency to constantly put myself down.

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God has given me the assignment of caring for a husband who is failing physically and has memory problems such that sometimes he does not remember what he did yesterday. I am carrying on and praying that God will give me the physical and emotional strength to care for him. Sometimes I am afraid and wake up at night worrying and not being able to go back to sleep. Every night I pray that God will give me a restful night and He often does. My biggest fear is the fear of what the future holds.

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I know that I have no control over our lives. I trust God to give me wisdom to do what He would have me do daily. Our lives are fairly stable right now, but my husband's health is so fragile that something could happen any time. I need to take one day at a time. I need to make the day a blessing for both of us. I do not know what I would do without the strong faith that God will never leave me and He will hold me up if I am about to fall.



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

### All Belong to God

By

Sr. Lucia



*Sr. Lucia is our Director of Admissions. She lives in Meridian, Idaho and was admitted as a Lay Worker in 1982.*

This past year we have been looking at the Jewish Jesus. How did this Jewish carpenter live his life in the 1st century? How did his Jewish upbringing and beliefs come through in his actions and teachings? This final lesson topic is "All Belong to God." So, we begin at the beginning.

**Genesis 1** *In the beginning when God created<sup>[a]</sup> the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God<sup>[b]</sup> swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

*<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.*

*<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.*

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make humankind<sup>[c]</sup> in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,<sup>[d]</sup> and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind<sup>[e]</sup> in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;<sup>[f]</sup>  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Genesis 2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

God was there actively involved in creation, the beginning. He created it all and said it was good. Now after he created humans, he didn't just say it was GOOD, but it was VERY GOOD. Does this not mean that all belongs to Him as all was created by Him?

Look at **Psalm 89:11** *The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them.* This verse reinforces the Genesis declaration of God creating all.

Who is a stranger? How do you treat a stranger? Lev.19 speaks of treating the stranger.

**Lev 19:33** *When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. <sup>34</sup>The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God*

For me, this year has shown me a new way of looking at what Jesus says and does. I have found out that what I thought were some Jewish ideas and beliefs were incorrect; especially about who belongs to God. My misunderstanding of Judaism was that I thought if you weren't Jewish then you were cast out to darkness and God didn't think or love or care for you. This is something that was preached/taught/or highly implied in my early formation. Maybe it came from the passages that declared that Jews should not marry outside their faith, kill all your enemies and take their possessions. I heard the lessons about treating the outsider but did not understand what was truly meant. In Judaism ALL BELONG TO GOD.

Jesus teaches this in many ways. See how he explains the concept of who a neighbor is in the Good Samaritan.

**Luke 10:** <sup>25</sup>Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup>He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup>He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." <sup>29</sup>But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii, <sup>[b]</sup> gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup>He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Another lesson that Jesus teaches is the healing of the Syrophenician woman's daughter.

**Mark 7:** <sup>24</sup>And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and would not have anyone know it; yet he could not be in hiding. <sup>25</sup>But immediately a woman, whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>And he said to her, "Let

*the children first be fed, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.”<sup>28</sup> But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.”<sup>29</sup> And he said to her, “For this saying you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.”<sup>30</sup> And she went home, and found the child lying in bed, and the demon gone.*

Compassion and Mercy are the background of Judaism and what Jesus learned at his father's and the Father's knees. Treating the stranger with compassion and mercy is imperative. Maybe Jesus wasn't as much of a new thinker or radical but was bringing them back to the basic concept of all belonging to God.

In *Jesus: First Century Rabbi*, Rabbi David Zaslow writes about theological misunderstandings. The faithful in each religion try to prove their point using the same passages. A story is told where the Messiah finally arrives and both groups, Christians and Jews, run to meet him. One cries, this is the first time you have come, RIGHT?! The second group cries out this is the second time, RIGHT?! The Messiah sighs and says no, I have been back many times but you were too busy arguing to notice. At the end of his book, Rabbi Zaslow writes that the COMPOSER (God) has written a wonderful hymn for the choir and orchestra. Angels are ready to join. We are all members of a single choir, a single orchestra with our own part and section. Are we ready to sing?

**YES, ALL BELONG!**

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

As I was preparing the reflection questions for Sr. Lucia's article, I read these words from Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE:

We have been created in the image of God, whose opening act in creation in the Book of Genesis is generosity. The words “genesis” and “generosity” spring from the same etymological source. Long before death pulls from your grip what you cannot take to the grave, acknowledge it all as gift, and gift it back to God as an offering for God's use. Participate in God's generosity.



1. How do you acknowledge life as gift and participate in God's generosity?

2. Sr. Lucia begins her article “at the beginning” – Genesis 1 – take time to read these verses again slowly. Can you envision Creation being formed in your mind?

3. As Creation formed God created it all and saw it was not only good but “very good” after the creation of humans and as Sr. Lucia points out that all belongs to God being created by God.
4. We read that “on the seventh day God rested from work. What is the importance to you that God “rested” on the seventh day? Note that God blessed the seventh day. Do we bless the seventh day now in our lives?
5. As we read Sr. Lucia’s article the title comes to us “All Belong to God”. Take time to reflect and pray on those words. How do we we join the “Composer (God) and become part of the choir, with orchestra and angels ready to sing?