

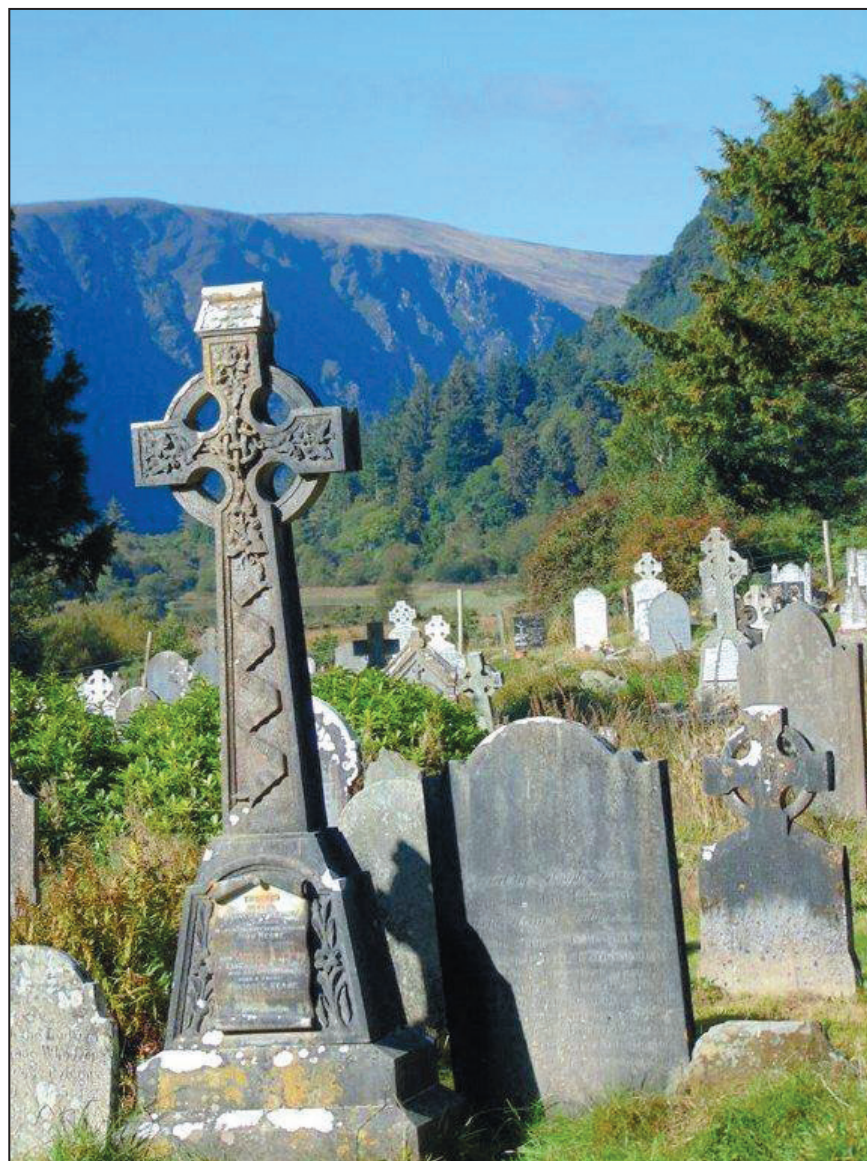
**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**OUR CELTIC JOURNEY**  
**January 2020**

**High Cross at Glendalough Monastery - photo from the Internet.**

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.

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**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)**

<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>	
Trina Avedisian, Friend, WSHS Sr. Sharron Magdalene, WSHS	Layout & Design WSHS/WBHS Bulletin Proof Reader
Contributing Staff	
Br. Ephrem, WBHS Shirley Pace, WSHS Sr. Christine, WSHS Sr. Wendy Samuel, WSHS	News Notes and Prayer List Calendar Co-Director Co-Director
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## CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
JANUARY 2020**

**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 2020**

February 22 • March 28 • April 25 •

May 23 • June 27 •

July 25 • August 22 • September 26 •

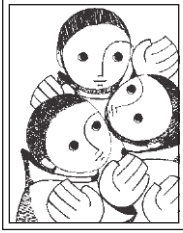
October 24 • November 21 • December 12

**RETREAT 2020**  
**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.

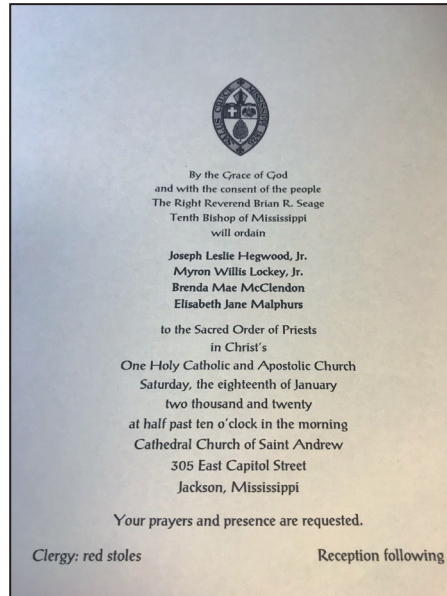


8:00 AM - Prayer for our Community  
12:00 Noon - Prayer for World Peace  
5:00 PM - Prayer for our Community



## SPECIAL NEWS NOTES

Sr Brenda Faith, WSHS will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on January 18th, 2020. Please see the attached Invitation. Sr. Brenda Faith has been a member of our WSHS/WBHS Community since 1981. It is with great joy that all our Community celebrates this special time with her and her family. Cards and notes would be most welcome!



## HAITI

As we continue to pray for our beloved Sisters, Brothers and children of Haiti, let us keep them high in God's blessed hands.

In the month of November we were able to ship one case of water tablets to Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley. She forwards it on to Br. Frantz Benedict to distribute, along with his team, to all his people so that they may continue to have clean water.

Thanks to all of our Community for your continued support and dedication towards our Haiti Mission. It is such a success because of all of us. So I pray for everyone to have a happy and healthy Christmas and joyous New Year with your families and friends.

*Blessings and prayers,  
Sr. Alexandra Francis*



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PRIRESS: SR LAVERN PETER

*Happy New Year and welcome to our new Study for 2020*

**“Celtic Christian Spirituality”**

Each year, our Community, undertakes a special study which was the desire of our Founder, Sr. Angela. She designed plans for the future growth and nurture of both WSHS and WBHS. Her familiar quote was “Our Community is being created by those who are becoming.” By opening doors for “prayer, study, contemplation, worship, we are empowered by love-filled action”.

Sr. Angela’s vision for our dispersed Community was to continue to draw us together which might seem impossible due to the miles which separate us, but we find after over 46 years we are as close as those who live in Community. Our Annual Retreat in the spring, yearly Theme and Bulletin, keep us on very much this same path as we continue to grow year by year.

This year is another very special one as we undertake the study of “Celtic Christian Spirituality”. We are so pleased that the first article to begin this journey is written by Sr. Nancy Clare, who has done a great deal of research, and her writings this month open the door for us to begin.

We are delighted that Carl McColeman, who has done such a wonderful job with our Presentations over the past several years, will be with us again for our Retreat. He has an excellent book on “An Invitation to Celtic Wisdom” and we look forward to Carl and his wife Fran being with us!!

I close with this special quote from **Carmina Gadlica**:

“The Christian way is a pilgrimage, a journey ever deeper into the virtues of faith, hope, and love. We make this pilgrimage as a company. We who travel together experience both the common journey and the singular personal process as we practice living and praying. Our ultimate destination is the home we never leave. Jesus who walks with us and indwells us. The way becomes known to us in the daily walking of it. Each day, each night, each light, each dark. We make our way together that way, both shared and singular.”

*(Annotation by The Rev. Mary C. Earle)*



## NEWS NOTES

**Br. Franz Benedict:** The thirty children of the orphanage, God's House, are happy and want to share with you their joy and gratitude. Those twenty-four young girls and six boys are safe now because they are able to use nine-hundred aquatabs per month to treat their three drum of seventy-five gallons of unclean water. This is our contribution to their frail life not to get sick from unclean water. Those kids count on your generosity for their survival and operation. Those poor children are sent to the orphanage by their parents. I am still priest in charge of parish Notre Dame at Bolosse. Bolosse is a poor neighborhood where the streets are ruled by gangs and guns. Our worships are sometimes interrupted by scandal or we have to close the gate of the church to make sure that we will not get unknown visitors. Until today God is with us and our church grows despite these difficulties. This distribution is part of my ministry now. It is important that at least through me WSHS/WBHS can bring so much in those poor villages and schools. Let us join you to thank you while you are thanking God for what God has done for you. Please pray for Haiti which is fighting to find PEACE.

**Members and friends of the Pleasant Hill, TN group of the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit** enjoyed their annual Christmas gathering at the Cumberland Mountain State Park. We honored the joyful tradition of sitting by the huge Christmas tree and having a picture taken. This tradition was started and perpetuated by Sr. Angela.

Row 1 - L to R

Karen Charbonnet Carter, Worker WSHS, Rachel Charbonnet-Baker, guest

Row 2 - L to R

Bill Carrell, guest, Sr Janeen Julian, WSHS, Barbara Everett, Companion WSHS  
 Br. Andrew, WBHS, Joan Goodman Gittings, Companion WSHS, Joe Gittings, guest  
 Teri Kelly, Companion WSHS, Mark Canfield, Companion WBHS




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**COMMUNION OF SAINTS**
**In Memory of Sister Beverly Priscilla  
Dec 28, 1933 - November 22, 2019**


The following Eulogy was delivered by Sister Deborah at Sister Beverly's funeral on December 7th, 2019 at St. Marks Anglican Lutheran Church in Midland Ontario.

Also in attendance were Sister Betty-Lou Shirley, Sister Wendy Samuel and Sister Jane Bartimaeus who did all of the readings and assisted in the Eucharist. It was an honor to be included in Sister Beverly's funeral in this way.

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Our Community knows Bev North as Sister Beverly Priscilla. Sister Beverly made her life commitment to The Worker Sisters and Brothers of The Holy Spirit on February 18, 1984 and she became a Sister on May 1, 1992.

Although we are an internationally dispersed Community and meet only once or twice per year, we are connected through our commitment to one another in prayer, through our monthly bulletins, and in the working of The Holy Spirit.

Approximately two years ago, Beverly and I experienced just how powerful this connection is. I was at Georgian Bay General Hospital visiting my partner Dave as he had been admitted for observation for a few days. The hospital was full so he was in a mixed ward. As I turned around one evening, the lady in the bed across from us caught my eye. She was more frail than I had remembered but still had that sweet smile on her face. It was Sister Bev. I went to speak with her and help her with her dinner. I was not sure she knew who I was but as I was leaving she said "Thank you, this was very kind of you." I called Sandi when I got home and learned Sister Bev had been there about 6 weeks and because it was Sandi's birthday she had taken one night off from visiting and was feeling guilty that no one would be there to help her Mom with her dinner. Our Community knew Sister Bev had fallen and had a broken hip since she was on our prayer chain but we did not know where she was recuperating. God saw to it that evening that Sister Beverly had help. It was also a blessing to me to see her again.

My fond remembrance of Sister Beverly and her husband Br. Robert was at the tea house in Thornbury and then The Shepherd's Field on Slabtown Road. Sister Bev's hospitality was second to none. Every detail from tiny flowers by each bedside, ironed sheets, beautiful meals, the manicured lawns and gorgeous gardens or walking the labyrinth they had once mown into the field made it a treat to

visit. Our group from Michigan came over once a year to join us in prayer, discovery, becoming and relating. Your Mom's hospitality reached hundreds of people in her church, our Community, and the places she lived.

Sister Beverly was a Cluster leader for many years in our Community which involved responding to three or four members' spiritual letters each month as we walked our Christian journey together. This is our accountability to each other for spiritual growth. This strong sense of belonging and nurturing is a vital part of Our Community.

I also remember your Mom's generosity to others. One day when I was not working and home with my kids and broke, she noticed my terribly scuffed shoes and quietly slipped money into my pocket to buy a new pair. This meant the world to me.

Sister Beverley now joins Our Communion of Saints as she has entered another phase of The Journey. Our Communion of Saints is very important to us as it includes the persons who grew with us and helped us develop our Community Life. Each year on the first evening of our annual Retreat in the spring in St. Louis Missouri, we remember every person who has passed away since the formation of our Community in 1972. We present a slide show that displays each person's photo and we lovingly remember each person. It is our way of welcoming all in our Community to our annual Retreat. We know they are right there with us.

When Sister Beverley made her life commitment in 1984 there were 5 members who had died, Our Communion of Saints now numbers 95. Sister Beverly Priscilla's photo and obituary will be lovingly placed in our Memorial Book next spring at Retreat 2020. She will never be forgotten.



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

### A Celtic Journey

By

Sr. Nancy Clare, WSHS



This year we are traveling back to a time and a place that may enlarge and fire our spiritual imagination, a time and place influenced greatly by the early Christian Ammas and Abbas of the desert and by some of the earliest monastic communities of the eastern church, by those who subsequently took these early Christian practices to a people on the edge of Europe, the Celts.

The Celtic Christian church came into being very peacefully; it was received with joy and was assimilated easily into their Celtic worldview, received as a gift to be weaved into their own beliefs and world outlook – there was no

resistance here. Because the Celts believed in the goodness of creation and the material world, they offer this gift to us today – the primary love and goodness that is at the center of God’s love for us.

### *Who are the Celts?*

From the book *Celtic Christianity* by Timothy Joyce we learn that “*They (the Celts) are recognized as the ‘European Aborigines,’ like Native American tribes already on the land with their own developed culture prior to being conquered, and driven out or assimilated by more powerful invaders.*” However their place of origin remains a mystery. Britain was Celtic long before the Angles and Saxons invaded in the 5th century. If we are of European ancestry we most likely have some Celtic blood in us. Gradually as other populations spread through Europe the Celts were pushed to the shores of the far western world, which include Cornwall, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Brittany in France and the Isle of Man off the coast of Britain.

### *My Celtic Roots*

My Mother grew up in Cornwall on the far western peninsula of England, facing north to the rugged cliffs towering over the Atlantic and south to the more gentle slopes edging the English Channel. I have found a deep resonant joy in all things Celtic; I have been blessed to journey as a pilgrim to Glendalough in Ireland, to Iona off the coast of Scotland and to Lindesfarne on the northern coast of England; all early Christian Celtic sites. I plan to travel to Wales this coming May to further explore my Celtic roots. I invite all of you this year to journey to a time and place long ago, to a Celtic world that became a bright light in the ancient Christian world.

### *Peregrinatio*

A very particular journey in the Celtic tradition is called a *Peregrinatio* (a Latin term used by St. Augustine of Hippo) which urges Christians in the 4th and 5th centuries to adopt a life of perpetual journeying outward for the love of Christ while at the same time journeying inward towards a spiritual transformation. This concept of *Peregrinatio* became a central theme in their faith. It began with a call, a deep desire within to journey to an unknown destination with Christ as companion, to leave the comfort and security of one’s everyday life while at the same time, traveling to a deep place within. Esther de Waal, a noted British author, explains it as a journey to the “*true self in Christ.*”

### *The Trinity*

The pagan Celts eagerly seized on the power of a loving God who manifested in the Trinity. The mystical power of “three’s” was already a staple of their pagan rites. These Christian beliefs and practices from the East were absorbed eagerly by those who had always found holiness to be at the center of creation. These Celts lived in a world of mystery and beauty – time was more like a circle, symbolized by the Celtic knot with no beginning or ending. Thus the power and mystery of the Trinity and the holiness of all creation were reflected quite naturally in the daily prayers said by the lowly maid who milked her cows, and the weary traveler on the path, and the poor householder who stoked and put out her hearth fires daily. All was holy and all was steeped in prayer.

### *The Incarnation*

The Christian Incarnation was received easily by the pagan Celts who had always believed that all of Creation was holy. Their gods were always at the center of creation so they received eagerly the belief that God came to earth incarnate, in the body of an infant. Because these Celtic peoples saw a world

with few boundaries between the temporal and spiritual world, a world with “thin” places where angelic and other spiritual beings existed close by, they readily accepted the belief in the Community of Saints. These saints often walked and talked with them as they performed their daily tasks.

### *Artistic Imagination*

The Celts had a vivid imagination for words, stories and beauty which overflowed to their love for the written Latin scriptures. These treasured scriptures were welcomed, devoured and copied into exquisite manuscripts decorated with their distinctive Celtic symbols and designs. One of the most famous of these is the Book of Kells, now enshrined at Trinity College in Dublin. Completed in 800 AD on the Island of Iona, it is Ireland’s most glorious illuminated manuscript.

### *Our Celtic Inheritance*

Our theme this year invites us to travel back in time and in our imagination, to the beauty and mystery of this Celtic Christian world, encouraging us to experience a faith that was lived out before the great split between the eastern and western Church. May this journey with our Celtic ancestors enlarge and vitalize our Christian faith today.

*“The keeping of God upon thee in every pass,  
The shielding of Christ upon thee in every path.  
The bathing of Spirit upon thee in every stream,  
In every land and sea thou goest.”  
(Author unknown)*

### **Questions for Reflection**

#### **Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS**

1. Sr. Nancy Clare invites us to travel back in time as we begin our study of her Celtic Journey. Have you done any previous study of Christian Celtic Spirituality? If so, when and where?
2. In her article Sr. Nancy Clare mentioned having been on several Pilgrimages, and plans to make another trip to Cornwall to learn more. Have you made such a Pilgrimage? If so, when and where?
3. Sr. Nancy Clare speaks of Glendalough in Ireland and the cross on the picture of this Bulletin is of the High Cross at the Glendalough Monastery there – wonderful for us to be able to share that!!
4. As we begin this new Journey, you may want to spend time reading and rereading the lovely closing prayer with which Sr. Nancy Clare has closed her article.