

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



CREATION IS SACRED
March 2020

Bulletin Cover Photo by Worker, Lenore Wang

The photo was taken in the New Mexican high desert. I always feel close to God in the desert!

Love,
Lenore

.....
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, www.workerbrothers.org

THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
MARCH 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
Sr. Barbara Veronica, WBHS
Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS
Ginny Berkey, WSHS
Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2020

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



HAITI

In the month of January we were able to ship one case of water tablets to Haiti. Our continued support helps in this Mission of monthly water tablets being shipped to Haiti.

Ginny Berkey, Worker, WSHS's church, Christ the King Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona has become a yearly contributor to our cause. They have been donating for the past three years and this year they donated \$300. Ginny has been wonderful in bringing our Mission's needs to her church and we thank her very much. And we thank her church so very much for their love and compassion.

The following is a message sent to our Community from Br. Frantz Benedict:

The 30 children of the orphanage, God's House, are happy and want to share with you their joy and gratitude at this occasion of Thanksgiving Day.

Those 24 young girls and 6 boys are safe now because they are able to use 900 aquatabs per month to treat their 3 drums of 75 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 the 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 WS/BHS 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.

Prayers for Haiti, which is fighting to find PEACE
Br Benedict, WSHS/WBHS

And Sisters, Brothers, Workers, Companions and Friends, Br. Fan Fan's message is why our Mission is so important to carry on. The need to care for these wonderful children and all the people of Haiti with our support will continue with our love and prayers.

Blessings and Peace,
Sr. Alexandra Francis



FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

Retreat Air Travel Plans Needed

Email your air travel arrangements as soon as possible to our Retreat Travel Coordinator, Howard McClendon, Companion, at Hmclndn@gmail.com. Howard will again provide transportation from the airport to the Retreat Center for as many as possible and will coordinate travel groups for departure after the Retreat, again providing transportation where feasible.

He will need your Name, Email Address, Cell Phone # and Travel Dates/Arrival Time with Flight #, Departure Time with Flight #. **Please note that the St/ Louis Airport WILL NOT ALLOW curbside parking**, so he will be parked in the cell-phone parking lot which is only a couple of minutes from the arrival pickup lanes.

Gather your luggage and then call him at 601-467-7628 when you are curbside. He will then depart the cell-phone parking lot to pick you up - hopefully with 2-3 minutes. If others are arriving at approximately the same time at another terminal it may take a little longer. Once he has most of the travel itineraries he will email a travel schedule spreadsheet to everyone so you can see who will be arriving at about the same time. This may give you a better idea of wait times. Howard's Red Ford Flex can carry 4 passengers and luggage at a time, five in a pinch depending on luggage size. There will be a WSHS placard displayed on the vehicle windshield and passenger side window.

Retreat 2020 Reminders

During our Annual Retreat we observe The Great Silence from 10 pm to 7 am the next morning. This is a special time which we honor and observe.

We ask that you do not bring alcohol to Retreat for private parties in one's room. Last year we had complaints about this so please honor this request. Thank you!

Reading for Retreat 2020

We suggest two books to read before Retreat - *An Invitation to Celtic Wisdom: A Little Guide to Mystery, Spirit, and Compassion* by Carl McColman and *The Soul's Slow Ripening: 12 Celtic Practices for Seeking the Sacred* by Christine Valters Paintner. These are both available on Amazon.

A note from Jean Kinmonth, WSHS

I send my deepest appreciation for your loving support with the loss of my daughter and sister. I am on the 2nd step of grieving with prayers and some medication. I feel the love of the Sisters that I know so well and give thanks for their work in the Community.

Love and prayers, Jean Kinmonth, WSHS

At Retreat, **GENTLY USED WSHS/WBHS CLOTHING** such as T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, and Sweat-shirts will be available for a donation. All monies received will go toward purchasing water purification tablets for Haiti.

FOR THOSE NOT ATTENDING RETREAT

Please continue to pray during the days from April 30 – May 3 for safe travel, protection, wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for those of us at Retreat. Know that those of us at Retreat will be praying for you during this time.

**NEWS NOTES**

Sr. Kathleen Columb: We have a new great-grandson, Leo Christopher. He was born December eighteenth in St. Joseph, Missouri. His grandmother is James' daughter Michelle. My grandson Cameron is working at Red Lobster and he treated us all for my birthday there as it is one of my favorite places to eat. We are studying from a book called *The Path* at church. It goes through the Bible in book form and at the end of each chapter there are questions to discuss. We do the study every Sunday morning and we have a lot of fun with it. Last Sunday we all said "Hurrah" as we are finally in the New Testament. Some of the facts have been interesting and we discussed how God is always reaching out to humanity to repent and return.

Sr. Arnitta Monica: Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presented a revival for the Diocese of Washington, DC on Jan. twenty-sixth at the Entertainment and Sports Arena (home of the Washington Mystics). Four-thousand parishioners and visitors attended the *MORE JESUS, MORE LOVE* Revival. Our Diocese has African and Latino dancers, drummers, bands, gospel choirs, and a plethora of testimonies live and in videos from children to adults who spoke of what Jesus means to them. The Presiding Bishop was extremely excited and animated about the revival. His Latino interpreter had trouble following him around while he preached. We all laughed several times as she had to chase him down; almost getting hit by his swinging arms. This was an historic event.

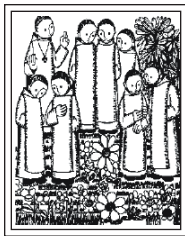
Kaelynn Judd: In late December I finished my EMT classes. I am now officially an EMT. I plan to volunteer in my community for several months before returning to school in the fall to continue on towards becoming a Paramedic.

Sr. Nancy Teresa: Barbie Richards and Sr. Nancy Teresa share lunch and Eucharist every other week. Sr. Nancy continues to be amazed at Barbie's courage, strength and sense of humor as she faces overwhelming challenges on a daily basis.



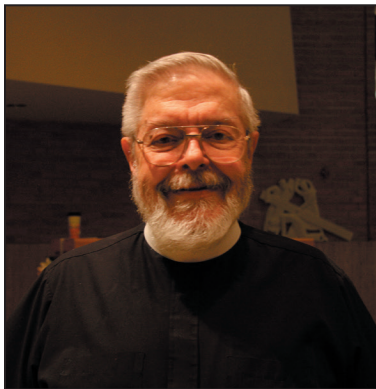
Br. Frantz Benedict: We celebrated, January 13th, Sr. Kethia's anniversary at Foyer Notre Dame. They have a nice minister in Haiti. They are taking care of elders mainly women in their sixties and more. This ministry is rare in Haiti.

We celebrated with modesty but with a lot of joy. She didn't say how old she is. May God continue to bless her and Sr Therese, SSM.



COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Kermit Wade Smith, Companion: Leader in Hospital Chaplaincy



The Rev. Kermit Wade Smith passed away on December 13, 2019 in Overland Park, Kansas at the age of 87. After an early childhood spent in Ohio, Kermit was raised in Dallas, Texas where he served in the Navy Reserves and received degrees from Southern Methodist University and Perkins School of Theology. After serving as a Methodist pastor and a local executive of Goodwill Industries, Kermit was ordained as an Episcopal Priest and found the vocation to which he devoted more than three decades: hospital chaplaincy.

Initially trained as a chaplain in Houston, Texas, Kermit became a member of Dr. Denton Cooley's heart transplant team, ministering to transplant patients and the families of both donors and recipients. His memoirs of this period are held in the archives of the Episcopal Church.

After serving at hospitals in Texas and Missouri, Kermit was appointed as National President of the College of Chaplains, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. He served in that capacity from 1980 to 1987. Upon leaving that post, he served as a hospital chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, Oregon, until his retirement in 2000. His family's center of gravity being in the Kansas City area, he made Kimberling City, Missouri his home and served St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Kimberling City as their Priest until 2012.

Kermit was predeceased by his parents, Reuben and Blanche Smith, by his second wife of 33 years, Lilly (nee Lilly Mae Louise Bruno) and his grandson Thomas W. Rutherford. He is survived by his first wife, Susan (nee Susan Anne McLaughlin), his son Steven (Glenda), daughter Suellen Hanis (John), stepchildren Sheri Ramirez (Henry), Drew Rutherford (Kathleen), and Clifford Rutherford (Bonnie) and by 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Kermit and his wife Lilly were longtime members, Companions, of WSHS. We were delighted when they were able to be with us for our 40th Anniversary Retreat in 2012 at Mercy Center.



COMMUNION OF SAINTS

In Memoriam Sister Beulah Grace, WSHS



July 27, 1937 to January 6, 2020

Beulah Anne Primus was born in San Juan, Trinidad and Tobago and moved to Canada in 1977.

Sister Beulah Grace made her life Commitment to Our Community on May 1, 1992. She attended St James Cathedral in Toronto where she served over the years doing various ministries including teaching Sunday School, reading scripture or polishing brass. She did hospital visiting for years giving hand-made cards with caring words to every person she visited. Sister Beulah loved to write poetry and shared her gift many times with Our Community.

I was blessed to know of her great love for her family and daily prayer for each of them and for her devotion to Our Community.

With great love, Sister Jane Bartimaeus writes,

As I mused over Sr. Beulah's passing and all the years we had spent together in our cluster, the observations we had shared about our faith and in later years all the telephone calls, I was struck by the third verse of this week's recessional Hymn - *'I heard the Voice of Jesus Say'*. It was her!

**I looked to Jesus and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.**

She really was a warrior for her faith, armed with great experience, a wonderful sense of compassion and great generosity of spirit. Quiet, shy, not one to put herself forward, but in great humility would gently speak her truth, write a piece of poetry or just make a phone call. That was Sister Beulah!

Sister Betty-Lou Shirley writes:

I loved Sr. Beulah so much! She was a wonderful inspiration and shared so much wisdom. She led me to taking the Pastoral Care Ministry certification at McMasters University. What strength she possessed in her quiet demeanor. She will be missed so much. I am comforted knowing she rests with Our Father.

Many others shared with Sister Beulah's Family on Facebook and spoke of her quiet gentle spirit.

We will miss our dear Sister Beulah Grace.

In his love,
Sr. Deborah



SPIRITUAL SHARING

Usually when I know I have to pray out loud, I think about what I'm going to say. On my last Stephen Ministry visit, I asked if she wanted a prayer and she said yes, so I sat on the edge of her bed, took her hands, and just started talking. I had no idea what I was going to say, but words came. Afterwards she said, "You're a good pray-er." I still don't know what I said, but I treasure the experience.

My daughter and I went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem about eighteen years ago. Not a tour, a pilgrimage. We went with a small group of Episcopalians and stayed for ten days at the guest house of Saint George Cathedral in Jerusalem, with only one overnight visit away (to Nazareth). We didn't so much see the sights as experience each place in depth. In fact, I felt a "thin place" when I entered the church at Gethsemane. It still stays with me.

When I was meditating the other day, my mind (as usual) kept wandering off and then coming back to sit in God's presence. This is normal for me. However this time I became more aware of the message that while my mind is wandering, I am God's beloved child. I am loved and cherished wherever I go and whatever I am doing. Seems like a reason for rejoicing.

Insurance company and contractors are about to take my sanity! I pray and pray for this to be finished and for everything to finally be unpacked but every time I make a plan I can hear a soft laugh from heaven! God and all of your prayers are keeping me afloat.

Most people consume far more information and entertainment than we need because it's so easily accessible, especially through our smart phones. Guilty as charged! Yes, I'm an information glutton. At what cost? What if I added up all the hours I spend at the computer and tithed just ten percent of that time to mission and ministry? What a difference that could make! I don't think I'm able to do that yet but I can be more conscious of how I spend my time and try to remember it's a form of stewardship.

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be studying Celtic Christian Spirituality with the community this year. As I mentioned before, I traveled to Ireland myself last July and was able to see the Book of Kells, to experience Irish church services, and to spend time in Glendalough. I heard many people describe Glendalough as a "thin place." I completely agree with that observation. I remember walking through the cemetery and all of a sudden I was overwhelmed with emotion and began to cry. It wasn't a gentle cry either, but deep sobs. I felt such a closeness to the monks buried there, the Saints who lived out their lives in those mountains, to my ancestors who lived in that country, and to God who orchestrated it all. It was the most profound spiritual encounter of my life.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

Creation is Sacred By Sr. Mary Govan, WSHS



*Sr. Mary Govan lives in Lawrence, Kansas.
She became a Lay Worker in 2009.*

Earth's crammed with heaven
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes,
The rest sit around and pluck blackberries

Heaven and earth, according to the ancient Celts, are three feet apart and in "Thin Places" that distance is much less. The notion of "Thin Places", or areas of the physical world where the veil between the worlds of time and eternity have become so stretched and transparent that one can see between was very important to

Celtic thought and later to the Celtic church that superseded it, to which holy places and people were spiritual centers and gathering places.

One such Celtic Thin Place for me is the area of St. Govan's head on the beautiful rugged coastline of Southwest Pembrokeshire. I visited this place with a group of friends while I was attending University in Wales. A pathway from the top of the cliff top leads to a flight of fifty two stone steps that make their way down the cliff to the small stone chapel wedged between a cleft in the rocks. This place was home to St. Govan whose claim to fame was being shipwrecked there while chased by pirates in the Irish Sea. He hid in a cleft in the rock that led to a hidden cave, thus eluding his pursuers. He was so overwhelmed with the beauty of the place that he made his home in the cave, living on fish and spring water and serving as a spiritual guide and lookout for Viking raiders for the local population. Leaving this chapel, the path downwards becomes more rugged ending in an area of giant boulders which are constantly pounded by the sea.

The first time I stood on these great rocks having my senses bombarded by the crashing and sucking of the waves, the feel of the wind, and the cold salt spray; I felt an overwhelming sense of awe and holiness. Although I did not realize it at the time, I had inadvertently arrived at a Celtic "Thin Place".

One of the things I like most about the Anglican Church, apart from the fact that I was brought up in it and that it is part of my tradition, is its sacramental nature; not just the official sacraments of the church, although their predictability and strength make them a cornerstone of spiritual stability, but also the more erratic and sometimes tantalizingly fleeting glimpses we see of God in the natural world. We have all experienced these in the beauty of a sunset, the wonder of a starry sky, the smile of a child, and so many others; some that are common to us all and some that are unique to us as individuals.

I think this desire and ability to see God in nature comes down to us from the Celts and is one of the reasons Anglicans are such fierce defenders of the environment. In some ways the Anglican Church has taken the idea of "Thin Places" to a new level. Most Celtic Thin Places are areas of dramatic natural beauty that overwhelm our senses and take us out of our mundane and tired way of seeing the world. It is easy to see God's hand in such places. Great Anglican writers such as C.S. Lewis and William Blake invite us to find doors to other worlds in ordinary and unexpected places, and see eternity in grains of sand. Elizabeth Bennet Browning in the introductory quote even suggests that we would have access to more "Thin Places" if we looked in the right way. It is not so much where you look as it is how you see.

The connection between the way we see and our ability to be aware of "Thin Places" is a subject that attracted me when I was doing research for a teaching unit about the connection between art and meditation. Research on brain activity suggests that the same area of the brain is activated for art and creativity as for religious experience. The key to both is the ability to disconnect from preconceived ways of thinking and seeing and to be able to think and see in new and exciting ways.

When it comes to seeing, it is obvious that we bring to our vision much more than just our sensory perception of objects: we bring also our thoughts about them, our past experiences and future predictions, as well as our preconceived ideas and beliefs. One of the best ways to see what is really there is to let go of these mental additions and so be free to see in a clearer and purer way. This kind of vision is seeing in the present, seeing what is there uncluttered by our past associations and future projections. Eternal

means out of time. God describes himself as, "I Am." He is always what is. The present is free of the past and the future and is a doorway to the eternal. These thoughts lead to the question of whether we can develop our ability to see in a more uncluttered way, thus being open to more "Thin Places".

To slow down and take notice of the things around us and spend more time looking at them is one of the easiest things to do to improve our way of seeing. We could get into the practice of taking leisurely walks whenever we can, give ourselves permission to stop and closely examine things that are interesting, and take breaks from the blessing and curse of technology which is so good at overloading our minds and scattering our concentration.

We could take breaks from being practical by starting to look at things aesthetically. It is surprising what beauty can be found in quite mundane objects. Take a very ordinary object like a crumpled piece of paper or a humble brussel sprout from the vegetable drawer. Look at it closely, seeing how many fascinating lines, colors and shapes there are. Take some pencils or crayons and make a drawing of it. Fill the whole paper and draw only the lines, shapes, and colors seen. Look at things from unusual angles such as upward through the branches of a tree or very closely at a flower. This will help in seeing things in new ways. Make time to look at sunsets, or oceans, or starry skies, substituting pictures if necessary. Make a list of the "Thin Places" we are aware of, visiting them often and always being on the lookout for new places and ways of greeting God in the world. In these ways we may increase our sense of awe at our beautiful world and, with the Celts, find it a source of spiritual inspiration. We can also better rejoice with our Anglican writers and join with the poet Gerard Manly Hopkins, to whom the entire world, at some time in his life appears to have been a Thin Place:

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness like the ooze of oil crushed....
And though the last light from the black West went,
Oh morning at the brown brink eastwards springs...
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and ah! Bright wings.

Questions for Reflection

1. Sr. Mary Govan, gave us an excellent introduction into what is called "Thin Places". She described being where St. Govan stayed for safety. Take time and try to quietly imagine a bit of what that "Thin Place" might have felt like as you stood there.
2. As we look at the cover of this Bulletin, we see the beauty of Creation which surrounds us. You can almost breathe the air as you look at the picture, feel a bit of the breeze, and watch the clouds drift by. Take time to sit with this quietly and rest.
3. I doubt I am alone when I think we are now living in a time when things don't seem to move fast enough. Deadlines, rush here and there, don't stop you are wasting time. Do we realize how much of life we miss when we don't stop, to even watch where we are going? Ever felt like that?

4. Sr. Mary Govan tells us to slow down and take time to notice the things around us. I am blessed as my “office” looks out on a beautiful rolling hill and as I begin each morning, I find I am not alone. I have this magnificent male cardinal which sits right across from me and as I sit there in the quiet he and I seem to rejoice in the world of creation around us. He and I, sit quietly in prayer just “being” in this special place.

5. Let us all “slow down” and “take notice” of things around us – I recently heard that those beautiful trees we enjoy looking at, actually talk to each other. I truly believe that as they along with all creation celebrate being open to “Thin Places”.

6. Sr. Mary Govan has some excellent suggestions for you to take pencils or crayons and draw your own “Thin Places” in greeting God in the world around us.