

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The CELTIC RUNE *of* HOSPITALITY

I saw a stranger yesterday.
I put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place;
And in the sacred name of the Triune God
He blessed myself and my house,
My cattle and my dear ones.
And the lark says often in her song,
Often, often, often
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise.



CELTIC HOSPITALITY
November 2020

Bulletin Cover - Celtic Rune of Hospitality

The Rune of Hospitality is taken from the Carmina Gadelica, a collection of prayers, hymns, incantations, blessings, runes, and other literary poems and songs collected and translated by Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912) in the Gaelic-speaking regions of Scotland between 1855 and 1910. It is a blessing to those that offer their hospitality to all including the stranger.

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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, www.workerbrothers.org

THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
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CALENDAR
**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
NOVEMBER 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

COPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2020

November 21

December 12

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

Here is hoping to find everyone well during this pandemic and that you are staying safe with social distancing.

I am in California visiting my son and his family, and especially my beautiful granddaughter Xandra who turn two in October. I left on Monday 9/7/2020 and will stay for two to three months. My mail will be forwarded, so your donations should arrive safely. But I would also like to give you my temporary address listed below in case you want to mail directly to the forwarded address. I just needed to be with family that I haven't seen in such a long time.

Alexandra Zarris
327 Orizaba Avenue
Long Beach, CA. 90814

*Blessings to all and good health,
Sr. Alexandra Francis*



FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

A Prayer for Covid-19

Marya Pohlmeier, Comp. WSHS shared with us this Prayer in Time of Pandemic by Joseph Veneroso, MM from the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

Prayer in Time of Pandemic

Save us, Savior of the world! Let Your mercy cover the earth as sunlight fills the skies.

May these days of disease, uncertainty and fear never overshadow Your call to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

Keep us safe, O Lord, not only from physical illness and danger but also from spiritual sickness of hatred, envy, greed and apathy.

Grant that this time of testing teaches us to appreciate our health, our faith, our friends, and family, but most of all, our life.

In Your most merciful hands we commend the souls of the dead and beg Your blessing on the sick.

Open our hearts to Your love and forgiveness and our eyes to Your divine image in all peoples at all times. May we never tire of serving You. Amen



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I try to see all things as a blessing, but it is very hard. I hope and pray that I am a person of hospitality and acceptance as Sr. Arlie says in the “A Familiar Stranger”. I do not know if I have entertained angels, but I pray I have.

Though I didn't know what it meant, I grew up with the Trinity. Learned it at my parent's knees so to speak. I never questioned it and am confused when people tell me they don't get it. Mystery is just accepted.

I always felt desired and wanted by my family. I had a place at the table as a child. It's since my family has been broken by death that I struggled. My family is now so small I often felt loss but I came to understand I have a collateral family. It is a growing process or maybe a transforming one. It has been great studying the Celtic culture and spirituality this year. I have taken some of the rituals into my routine and feel connected and complete.

I have read a bit about Stonehenge, druids, and the Gaelic and British experience of Julius Caesar, but I know little about the Celtic life, except what I have read in the story of St. Columba. I also read in a book, the name of which I can't at this moment remember, that the Celts came from Gaul and were tinsmiths.

The story of the mother dedicating her child to God by invoking the Trinity was very inspiring and honest. I got a lot out of it.

It's been a great theme for this year to focus on the simple wonder of life and its blessings all around us, to realize the importance of relationships and hospitality and also the circle of those persons around us, seen and unseen.





FORMATION AND TRAINING

CELTIC HOSPITALITY

By

Sr. Carol Matthew, WSHS



What is Celtic hospitality and how does it differ from hospitality today as we understand it? Carl Colman writes in *Celtic Wisdom*: “*From pre-Christian times the Celts recognized hospitality as a core value of their civilization. The Reigns of mythic kings were judged on their hospitality of lack here of.*” If we want to live in a world of hospitality today, we need to make room for hospitality in our own hearts and homes. The Celts have been the experts in hospitality and we can learn a lot from their open hearts.

Hospitality I believe can be very healing. The root word in Hospitality is “hospital” a place of healing. When we are present to others, really present with an open heart and open mind and listen with love, we have an opportunity to be giving them hospitality from our hearts. We are a Community spread out in the U.S.A., Canada and other parts of the world. Can we not learn from the wisdom of the Celts? We do open our homes to each other when possible and it is always a time of joy. Can we be open to be hospitable to those from other faiths and different political views, or life-styles and not judge? Hospitality comes from the heart as we welcome others. (This does not mean welcoming a serial killer into our homes; we must use our brains.)

I think it might be interesting if we as a Community of Sisters, Brothers, Lay Workers, Companions and Friends reach out in the Celtic way of Hospitality to each other as we look to the future. Let us pray that we give to each other from our being, each with our own gifts and talents given to us by the Holy Spirit.

“The Celts also put demands on people who received hospitality as well as those who gave it in other words, to refuse another hospitality is itself a breach of hospitality” from Carl McColman Celtic Wisdom.

Saint Brigid of Ireland was travelling with two nuns on the road from their convent one year during Lent. They were offered hospitality by a pagan Chieftain. At meal time that evening the two young sisters said that they could not eat the pork that was served as it would break their Lenten fast. Brigid immediately stood up, grabbed the two nuns and with great force threw them out of the house. She then apologized for the way the sisters behaved and continued to enjoy her pork dinner. Hospitality was far more important to the Saint than keeping a Lenten fast. First was sharing love and respect and honoring the host. I heard the story about Saint Brigid and the nuns from reading Carl McColman.

For the last year or more I have had to use a cane and also drive a cart in the grocery store. (*Yes, I have destroyed a few displays and twice backed into the freezer*) I have been overwhelmed by the kindness of strangers. I have been offered help and assistance frequently. It was difficult to always accept as I just wanted to say "That's alright, I can do it" when I really needed their help. Then I remembered Sr. Angela telling me that letting others give to you is giving them joy and to not block that. She went on to say that this can be an act of joy. I can now see that this is also an act of hospitality.

How do we teach our children and grandchildren hospitality in a world where their lives revolve around texting, tweeting, Instagram, messenger, just talking on the phone, or they are involved in all of the games? How can we teach them that having a friend spend the night, or their parents having a dinner party, is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to hospitality?

I did an exercise once with my Sunday School class in Peterborough Ontario. I pulled two tables together, covered them with one of my best table clothes and set the table to be ready for a banquet. I had paper plates, cups, napkins and flowers. I even brought two sterling silver candelabras with battery operated candles. All of my young students sat in awe with wide eyes as I read Matthew 22 about the beautiful banquet set for the King and no one came. Then people went out and invited the poor and the homeless to join them.

It was pre-arranged with the teacher of the class next door that when they were invited, the teacher said they were too busy. I was looking at a group of disappointed little kids. I reminded them of what people did in the story that Jesus told about the banquet to go out and ask the poor and homeless. They got excited and went and asked another class. They were so happy when they said yes. They then asked the first class again and they came also. They all enjoyed the feast of cheese & crackers, fruit, cookies and juice. I read the scripture again and I pray that in some small way they learned a little about the joy of Celtic Hospitality.

I would like to share with you a beautiful prayer from Iona a little island in western isles of Scotland. It is in *The Book of Celtic Prayer from Iona* by J. Phillip Newell. Sr. La Verne shared this prayer with me and it has become my nightly prayer.

May the Triune God
Father, Son, Holy Spirit
Bless us all.

Closing Prayer

I lie down this night with God
And God will lie down with me
I lie down this night with Christ
And Christ will lie down with me
I lie down this night with the Spirit
And the Spirit will lie down with me
The three of my love will be lying down with me
I shall not lie down with sin
Nor shall sin or sins shadow lie down with me

I lie down this night with God
And God will lie down with me
Amen

May you find the spirit of Celtic Hospitality within your hearts and share it with it love. Each one of you are a gift to our community and loved.

Questions for Reflection

*Please remember it is not necessary to answer all the questions
Choose one or two that speak to you and perhaps you would like to share.*

1. “Cead mile failte! A hundred thousand welcomes!” Sr. Carol Matthew cites that hospitality was recognized by the Celts as a core value of their civilization. Have you thought much about hospitality and what that means to you?
2. She states that the root word of “hospitality” is hospital – a place of healing where we listen to others with open heart, mind and love. Hearing those words does the view of “hospitality” change for you?
3. How have you offered hospitality to your family, friends, and neighbors and to members of our Community?
4. Sr. Carol Matthew shares the story of Sr. Brigid of the two nuns who rejected hospitality. Do you think she was fair as the nuns were trying to keep their Lenten discipline?
5. When have you received the hospitality of strangers? How did that make you feel?
6. With the special meal the children arranged and no one wanted to come what feelings did you have?
7. When the children went out and invited the other class – the “poor and homeless” did they gain more insight into what Jesus was saying.
8. After reading Sr. Carol Mathew’s article – is the door to your heart, and home more open to those who surround you as you look at Celtic Hospitality?