

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



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# **BULLETIN**

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**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**WHAT IS PRAYER?**  
**January 2021**

**Bulletin Cover - *Child's Praying Hands* - Photo by Jude Beck on "Unsplash"**

Let us come with childlike faith as we begin our study this year.

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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>	
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## CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
JANUARY 2021**

**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  
 Kansas City, MO USA  
 Southern MO USA  
 Pleasant Hill, TN USA  
 Arizona USA  
 Illinois USA

Br. David, WBHS  
 Sr. Dorothy Cecilia, WSHS  
 Sr. Barbara Veronica, WBHS  
 Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS  
 Ginny Berkey, WSHS  
 Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2020**

January 23 • February 27 • March 27

April 24 • May 21 • June 26

July 24 • August 27 • September 24

October 22 • November 20 • December 11

**RETREAT 2021**

***Lord Teach Us To Pray***

***Online Retreat - Zoom Sessions Dates TBA***

**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




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## FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

### Help Wanted!

If you're comfortable with computers, this opportunity might be just right for you. Read on!

#### Webmaster's Security Blanket

Since life is uncertain, our webmaster, Sr. Paula Adelaide, would greatly appreciate having someone as **backup** to be her Security Blanket! You won't have to do the job regularly, just know how in case the regular webmaster can't do it for some reason.

The Security Blanket will keep a copy of the webmaster ID and password, and will know how to upload the *Bulletin* and calendars when they come out, and update the Green Sheets as needed. This can be done from any computer, Mac or PC. The site is built in GoDaddy's user-friendly Website Builder. The WSHS/WBHS webmaster will explain how it works, and GoDaddy also has live help with real human beings available 24/7.

Please give this opportunity your prayerful consideration. If you are interested in this position, contact Sr. Christine. Thank you!




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## SPIRITUAL SHARING

Hospitality means more than being a good host, being a Martha. It is openness. Giving of oneself in a way. I always think of the poor widow and Elijah. We will give you something then die. But we will give you. St. Martins of Tours, split his coat and gave half to a leper. Desert people give what they can. They wash and give precious water. The opposite of this is Hostile. So, it goes more than just the place settings and water; it goes to the complete person. What do you need?

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When I was 20 and my cousin 15, we were visiting Mom and had to go to Dallas as she needed to attend the Dallas Mart for her business. Lis and I went to 6 Flags and got lost going back to the hotel. We ended up in the barrio. At the time I was a young-looking strawberry blond white girl. We stopped outside a restaurant and walked in seeking help. The place became quiet as a tomb. We stopped and I cried out that we were lost and could someone help us. Well, the female owner came around the counter and enveloped us. She had us sit, eat, drink and had people help us get to the ho-

tel. There was no us and them, just us. I felt love from fellow people. I feel that this was not the first time the owner had been hospitable. It was her nature and her upbringing in the faith.

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I have been rereading the book we read as Novices called "The Reluctant Healer". I need to reduce the number of books I have so I thought I'd read them once again before I give them away. The author really emphasizes "*Seek ye the Kingdome of God*" above everything else. So, I am going to follow her little plan for 3 weeks, as she suggests, and see what happens. I feel it is a way to be hospitable to God.

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Growing up, at Christmas time at our house, we as a family welcomed many family members, friends and neighbors to our home for meals that were served throughout the entire day. My mother did the cooking while my sister and I did the serving. It was a joy and pleasure. Also, as an adult, I welcomed into my home for meals and entertainment, my family, friends and neighbors. If they had guests visiting them from out of town, I also invited them. Many times, I had family and friends from out of state come to stay with us and celebrate with love and joy.

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Celtic Hospitality this past year may have seemed almost impossible to relate to as to how we normally think about Hospitality, however when you put it into the perspective of "a place of healing where we listen with open heart, mind and love," I imagine many of us have shared on these levels many times whether by phone, note or drop off of goodies.

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I have increased monthly notes to various friends and dropped off soups and stews to my daughter's porch while she and her husband are suffering through COVID.

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I, in turn, can think of the times I have received the gift of Hospitality when I was most in need and I was so very grateful, feeling loved and cared for.

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When I am sad these days, it is more of an existential sadness, not necessarily personal, but an ache for the way our world is today, filled with pain, inequality, disrespect and so on. I pray that I and all of us in this community can be welcoming and hospitable. As we go forward with community changes, I hope we will keep hospitality and welcoming and connecting as markers to ensure we stay on the right course.

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Sr. Charlotte shows such a spirit of hospitality in her reaching out to others. She writes to the family members of our Community of Saints, (those whose loved ones are past members we have lost). Such fidelity to a task she personally created out of a feeling of knowledge as to knowing their need for hospitality during their pain of saying, "Good-bye, to their loved one". In that sense she is irreplaceable.

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My husband and I recently had the opportunity to offer hospitality to my uncle who has found himself in the middle of a mess due to poor choices. My uncle is one the most authentic and passionate men I know. He never hides behind a mask or feels the need to soften his words. He lives life loud and without apology. If he loves you, you will be showered with praise and adoration. He would die for his loved ones without even thinking about it. I have watched my uncle face trials head on. If only the rest of the world would stop and see his strength and courage, instead of judging him for some of his bad choices.

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We had the honor of welcoming my Uncle into our home a couple of weeks ago for a hot shower, a home cooked meal, and some good conversation. There was something sacred about that night. My uncle came into our home in dirty clothes, a scraggly beard, and visible bones. But after a long shower he emerged with clean clothes, a shaved face, and a twinkle in his eyes. He devoured dinner that night and together we laughed into the night. When he left that evening, I knew we had encountered Christ. There was a sacred silence that filled our home for the rest of the night. In the end, my Uncle ministered to us far more than we ministered to him. It was a holy night, and one that will stay with me for years to come.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is a heaviness in my soul these past few weeks that I cannot put into words. My creativity seems paralyzed and my motivation to do even the most basic tasks appears to have dried up. Perhaps that is fitting for this time of year though. The last of the warm days of summer are behind us now, and the cold nights of Winter await us. This is the season of sacred anticipation and darkness. Many different religions will spend this time of year looking into their hearts, letting go of painful memories or bad habits, telling sacred stories, and praying. It is a season of introspection. Even nature is doing the same. Trees are letting go of their leaves, animals are bunkered down in their burrows, the earth is resting, and the plants are preparing for rebirth in Spring. All of Creation is in this together. I find comfort in that.

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*Soul Friends.* Over the years I have met many people who I consider friends and a few that I consider good friends, but when it comes to a special Soul Friend, I think perhaps there are 1 or 2 people outside the Community that I would consider in that category. In the Community there are special people who I have known for over 30 years and although I may not see them for 1 or 2 years or perhaps even longer, when I do see them again it is as if we were just together the previous day. These Community members are very special to me and I consider them true Soul Friends.

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I've been focusing on the fruit of Gentleness. More specifically, Mercy. It's time for me to give people more slack. To be more forgiving of perceived slights and impoliteness. Everyone will make mistakes, and I don't need to jump on folks when they do. How can I expect others to be indulgent with me, if I'm not acting that way toward others?

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I have really enjoyed the Celtic Christianity theme this year. How appropriate it turned out to be when we have all been forced into a much simpler lifestyle by this pandemic. I really appreciated the well-researched and presented overview followed by the various voices of other members who added their own viewpoints. They have all given me much to ponder from the importance of three in Christian and pre-Christian thought, the veil that clouds our vision of the world and the beautiful pictures of Celtic sites that have made me long to be able to travel again. I think my favorite was Brother Peter's image of Jesus as the medieval Celtic Knight. I have never really warmed to the image in western culture of Jesus as fair, white and effeminate. Unfortunately, our lives and spiritual journeys are often battlefields and it is good to have a warrior Jesus fighting alongside us.



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

**WHAT IS PRAYER?***By***Sr. LaVerne Peter, Prioress**

What an interesting question for us to address. I would imagine that each one of us has our personal explanation as to what it is.

To check the question out on my computer I see that it is “communication with God or a higher being to converse with.” While that is a good blanket definition of the question, does it really answer it?

I think as Christians, we look to the wording that it is “communication with God” where we are reaching out to Our Lord, in whatever form we use.

To me, it is that still small voice inside me that is always there and which many of us have learned as children or possibly adults. It is that part of us that is with us, every minute and are told, it is as close as our breath.

There are indeed many forms of prayer, and over the years of our Community we have studied various types. Through this, we have grown and developed, as we study Scripture and try to incorporate it into our daily lives.

If we look at our Prayer Books, you will find prayers for almost every part of our lives from Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline, Eucharist, and so so many others. We have an excellent guide and words are there for us to offer to God and others.

As I have reflected upon all of this, I have a question that has been in my heart over this year and that is “Why did the Disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray”.

They lived closely with him for the three years of His ministry and observed Him at prayer and yet, if we read Scripture in Luke 11:1 *“Now, it came to pass, as he was praying, in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his Disciples said to Him ‘Lord teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’”*

As I did some research, I think the following quote speaks of this, “We usually think of John the Baptist as a prophet and martyr, and yet Jesus’s Disciples remember him as a man of prayer.” It is apparent that John’s disciples had to pray and Jesus’s Disciples wanted to learn better how to pray. They did not ask the Master to teach them how to preach or do great signs, they ask Him to teach them to pray.

The Disciples were Jews, and we believe they may have been schooled as small children to attend Synagogue, learn the Torah, and learn to honor the Rabbi as their teacher as part of their upbringing.

There are references to Jesus speaking and reading in the Temple yet the Disciples saw something different as he prayed. You will note in the Scripture verse it says *“Jesus was praying”* in a certain place, and when he stopped his prayer was when the Disciples ask him *“teach us to pray”*.

Jesus then begins with the opening words of the Lord’s Prayer. He refers to God as *“Father”* or *“Abba”* (a deep personal relationship begins to flow) which teaches us to reach out to God as Our Father with love. In my own mind, I am sure the Disciples stood in awe, this is not what they expect. To their ears, this was not the God of the Old Testament but the reaching out to a loving and caring Father or as a child *“Daddy”*.

I try to place myself there with the Disciples and stand in awe, like turning into a new horizon. In talking with our Directors about the encounter, Sr. Wendy Samuel said it is like *“A direct conduit to God”* and Sr. Christine quoted Evelyn Underhill *“If the seeking of the Eternal is actuated by love, the finding of it is achieved through prayer”*.

To me, it is as if the doors of Heaven opened fully for us, as we reach out to our Loving God in prayer with His Love reaching out to hold us.

As we begin this new study *“Lord Teach Us to Pray”* for this coming year, I believe it will be a new and deeper level of prayer for each of us. I look forward to the growth within myself as I draw closer to the words written by Richard Foster in his book Coming Home, *“God is inviting you and me to come home, where we belong, to come home, to that for which we were created. His Arms are stretched out wide to receive us, and His heart, is enlarged to take us in”*.

***True, whole prayer, is nothing but love.  
St. Augustine***

### **Reflection**

Please note there are no questions to answer. Take time to read the article, and reflect upon it and then and write in your own words *“What Is Prayer”*