

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING
May 2022

Bulletin Cover

St. Francis Statue, Franciscan Prayer Center, Independence, MO - *photo by Sister Deborah, WSHS*

As I came across this photo from Chapter 2008, the words of the hymn “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” went through my mind. One of the lines resonated with our topic this month, “To be understood as to understand”..... I can almost hear all of us singing this together, hopefully next year in St. Louis.

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Community Communication Contacts:

Prayer Requests and News Notes for the monthly Bulletin - email Br. Ephrem, apergydesign@gmail.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, www.workerbrothers.org

THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS
May 2022**

Below is a list of the monthly Regional Gatherings and Corporate Communion. Meetings are open to all members (Sisters, Brothers, Workers, Companions, Friends and Applicants). If you are interested in attending an online Regional Gathering, please contact the Zoom Host and she/he will add you to the group's email list.

Regional Zoom Gatherings

Eastern Regional USA	Br. David, WBHS, brdavidwbhs1@gmail.com	May 21 - 11:30 AM ET
Central Regional USA	Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS, nancybrooks40@gmail.com	May 21 - 2:00 PM CT
Southern Regional USA	Sr. Kathleen Rachel, WSHS, srkathleenrachel@gmail.com	May 21 - 3:30 PM ET
Western Regional USA	Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS, wguyton17@gmail.com	May 28 - 10:00 AM AZ time

In-person Corporate Communion

Carthage, Missouri	Sr. Barbara Veronica, WSHS	TBD
Pleasant Hill, Tennessee	Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS	TBD

REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES

See Above • June 25 • July 23 • August 27
September 24 • October 22 • November 19 • December 10

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

We continue to pray for our loving Sisters, Brothers and children of Haiti. We give thanks for Br. Frantz Benedict as he and his team distribute the water tablets that are sent and keep their people safe with clean water.

We give a whole-hearted thanks to our Community for their continued support of our Haiti Mission. We also have individuals from our churches in the USA and Canada who donate funds and appreciate their dedication to our cause. We know that our loving God is with us helping us on this Mission.

This season of 2021-2022 we have shipped 140,000 water tablets at 167mgs of 20 liters each. This equals 2,800,000 liters of clean water. Global Hydration has shipped 10 cases over this period at a total cost of \$4,491.75 CAD converted to \$3,561.50 US\$. Global Hydration is now reporting the cost of tablets in CAD, Canadian funds, so I do a conversion for USA funds. No shipments went out in the 2020 season because Haiti was not accepting any due to the pandemic.

From 2020-2022 I have received \$5,655 in donations with checks delivered to my address.

The total history is approximately 2,045,730 water tablets shipped, which equals approximately 35,929,850 liters of clean water delivered to Haiti.

Thank you so much to Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley for her continued support of shipping out the water tablets monthly to Haiti in a timely manner.

Blessings to All our Community and stay healthy,
Sr. Alexandra Francis



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I am listening to tapes on life improvement and though God is not mentioned in most, God is there. It helps me with my attitude and ability to listen to other voices. My meditations in the a.m. and EFM reading have also been leading to wisdom and discernment.

Barbie Richards tells her cluster leader, that she starts every morning with confession. That way she starts the day as a new person.

I got a totally unexpected phone call today. I've been feeling inadequate about my Stephen Ministry. Due to Covid, I've never met my care receiver in person (new last November) and we just talk on the phone once a week. She hasn't wanted to zoom. I feel like I'm not really doing anything. So, when our

Stephen coordinator called, I thought he was going to say she wants to quit. Just the opposite! After church she went to the minister (who is also a Stephen coordinator) to say thank you for the Stephen Ministry and how grateful she is for me and how I've been a blessing to her. All I can say is that it isn't me. God is working in spite of me! That's what God does, works in spite of us! Grace abounding!

Thank you, Kaelynn, for reminding me of the wonderful visions experienced by Julian in perhaps her deepest darkness. Her visions reminded me that I am loved beyond what I can imagine, and that joy is God's gift to me in the midst of pain or loss. This tender and loving affirmation strengthens my faith in dark and chaotic times, to know that beyond all that swirls around and through me, when it is in God's hands, all will ultimately be well. For me, it is a relief to know that God is God, and I am not. I may be led to some small role to play, but ultimately, I am only a small part of God's perfect plan. Again, Kaelynn's choice of Julian's message is the very message I needed today.

Going forward after reading Kaelynn's powerful article reminds to me to try to stay the course and live in the moment. I want to have an awareness that it is in the present moment only where I will encounter this loving and forgiving and joy-filled presence, which will lead me to the next step in my day. All I can do is be as transparent as possible in order to reflect that loving joy I experience.

Below is an invitation to explore quiet prayer time from Sr. Nancy Clare and Sr. Nancy Teresa. It has been a valuable resource for them in strengthening their ongoing conversion of heart.

When some practice has been especially helpful to you and has been a blessing it is natural to want to share it. Some time ago Sr. Nancy Teresa and I (Sr. Nancy Clare) began meeting weekly for about 2 hours for some quiet prayer time together. We keep it to 2 hours. We allow some time to share and update significant movement in our lives since the previous visit, have a very brief sort of Lectio reading where we have time to just ponder a bit and then follow with intercessory prayer but often bringing our concerns into maybe ½ hour of contemplative silence together. (*Less time is fine but 20 minutes minimum is suggested to be a good measure*) This time has probably enriched us in ways we can't begin to know fully.

Because Sr. Nancy and I have been so blessed, supported, and fed in our journey by meeting regularly with one another in this way, we want to encourage each and every one of you to consider asking someone (maybe a Community member, maybe a friend who lives in your town) to join you in exploring quiet prayer time. Ask them to join you weekly for a short time for some sharing, prayer and silence. It can be an invaluable way to grow and have accountability, especially in these times when many of us are not able to meet in person. This is just a suggestion, an invitation which will bless you personally.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

The Gift of Understanding

By

Sr. Agnes, WSHS



Liz Foster, WSHS was invested as Sr. Agnes, WSHS at our 50th Anniversary Retreat. Liz was admitted as a Worker in May 2016.

This is my maiden voyage, writing for the *Bulletin*. I joined the Community officially in 2012 as a companion. At that time I had no intention of being a Sister. One thing led to another, so I guess my original understanding of what God had in mind was not clear to me back in 2012.

When it comes to understanding, there are two areas I think matter most, understanding each other and understanding God. Much springs from communication, primarily listening.

When I was newly involved in the church, I was excited about missions, foreign missions in particular. When the church announced a trip to Haiti, I knew God had called me to go. Before I could take my first Creole lesson, I discovered with glee that I was pregnant with our first child. A few years passed, and again a trip to Haiti was planned, and yes I discovered I was blessed with our next child. My conclusion was clear: I heard Haiti but God said baby. It was the beginning of a very different mission field.

When my mother was in her mid-eighties, she finally sold her car. How tired I was of hearing her say that she wished she hadn't sold the car. Each time she brought it up, I thought to myself with frustration, *she hasn't left the house, let alone driven the car and that car had high insurance premiums*. It was years later that I realized I had heard her but not listened or understood. My mother was expressing her loss of independence the car represented. I realized then how important listening and understanding are to our lives.

In the prayer ascribed to Saint Francis, there is reference to understanding. "O, Master, let me not seek as much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that one receives. ..." It is when the self is dropped that understanding becomes a gift.

Understanding can be all the things found in a dictionary, but when applied to living a life to reflect the love of God, as his servants, it seems to mean more. It indicates listening with the heart, with compassion. If the mind is in control, words can be ready and available. Often the words can be unintentional darts, or handy hollow Hallmark-formulated statements. "God needed another angel in

heaven.” Or this handy favorite, “God never gives you more than you can handle.” Understanding can be silent. To learn to get past the uncomfortable moments of silence, it needs to be practiced. Silence is better than a rush of wrong words.

I often think of those poor disciples who seemed to be so clueless, all the messages of Christ, there to be heard over and over again. What they heard was beyond what could have ever been understood. It had never happened before. It is unimaginable to have a friend, closer than a brother, leave and be surrounded by enemies, to die a horrible death by crucifixion. Looking into the tomb did not provide enlightenment. They understood when they met the risen Lord.

How harsh I have been on the followers of Jesus. I judged them, thinking they saw the rising sun but sat in the dark. Foolish, being scared in a storm, when after all Jesus was right there. I had the whole story, knowing the big picture from childhood. Only much later did I begin to think, how long did it take me to really get the message of the good news? I must admit I’ve never been in a boat in a storm. To be able to step beyond knowing, being harsh in judgement, a grain of grace, softens a hard exterior. Being misunderstood was my fear; striving to be understood took much of my energy. It was in contemplating amazing grace that I began my desire to understand. It is a day-to-day prayerful task. The opportunities to miss the point happen with every encounter.

Questions for Reflection

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

1. We enjoyed reading Liz Foster’s “Maiden Voyage” as her writing this article for our monthly *Bulletin*. She writes how her path changed deeply when she became part of WSHS. Has your path changed also over the years and would you like to share about that?
2. Liz speaks of truly listening to her Mother when she expressed loss in not being able to drive her car due to loss of independence. “Listening is so important for us.” I recall my late husband telling folks that God gave us two ears and one mouth, which to him meant we should listen twice as much as we speak. Do you find that easy to do?
3. In the Prayer of St. Francis, Liz speaks of “to be understood than as to understand”. Where do you see the difference in those two words in your life?
4. Liz brings in an excellent point where she speaks of rushing in with the wrong words. Can you relate to that and give an example?
5. As we are now celebrating the First Week of Easter, the disciples seemed a bit “clueless of the messages of Christ” and yet, Liz concludes with the words “They understood when they met the Risen Lord.” Take time to reflect on those words and maybe write a prayer of thanksgiving and deep joy for our “new” life in Christ.

Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS