

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



THE GIFT OF COUNSEL
June 2022

Bulletin Cover - Photos From Our Retreats

We are blessed in Our Community to give Counsel to each other. Sometimes we do not know that “*what we say in the moment*” is exactly what the other needs to hear. This is true whether it is in person, over zoom, a phone call or our monthly letters between Cluster Leader and Member. Let us listen and learn. **Photo 1:** Bishop Poole with Fr. Beachy / **Photo 2:** Sr. Alice Stephen with Sr. Arnitta Monica / **Photo 3:** Sr. Angela with Sr. LaVerne Peter / **Photo 4:** Sr. Catherine Marie with Fr. Beachy

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: 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
Web Addresses: workersisters.org workerbrothers.org

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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

June 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	June 25 - 11:30 AM ET
Central Regional USA	Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS, nancybrooks40@gmail.com	June 25 - 2:00 PM CT
Southern Regional USA	Sr. Kathleen Rachel, WSHS, srkathleenrachel@gmail.com	June 25 - 3:30 PM ET
Western Regional USA	Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS, wguyton17@gmail.com	June 25 - 10:00 AM PT

In-person Corporate Communion

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

REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES

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**



COMMUNITY CHANGES

Please make the following alterations to your Green Sheets:

Here is an update for your Green Sheets. Remember that an online copy of the Community Green Sheets is available on our website. It is updated monthly.

To view the online Green Sheets, go to www.workersisters.org; click on MORE, then on MEMBER PAGES. To sign in, the email to use is: WSHS.WBHS@gmail.com – the password is Angela45

Shelley Selph, Friend has a new email address. It is: shelleyselph41@gmail.com

Sr. Shirley Evangeline has a new email address. It is: sr.shirleyevangelinpace@gmail.com



HAITI

What a wonderful 50th celebration we had this year. Seeing so many of us was so inspirational and the love that we have for each other is heartwarming. Let's pray that next year that we are able to meet in person and give each other super hugs.

Let us pray for our Haitian loved ones that they are kept safe from harm and that the supply of clean water keeps them healthy. Prayers for Br. Frantz Benedict as he and his team distribute the water tablets that we ship to Haiti.

In the month of May, Global Hydration has shipped one case of water tablets to Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley. We truly appreciate everyone's contributions to our cause.

Thank you, Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley for your continued support and making sure that the tablets are shipped in a timely speed to Haiti.

Blessings and Prayers,

Sr. Alexandra Francis



COMMUNION OF SAINTS


**Fr. Steven Wilson, Companion, WSHS
1965–2022**

Having received the Sacrament, the Rev. Steven Clark Wilson entered into eternal life on Monday, February 14, 2022.

He was the rector of Grace Church, Carthage, MO, since 1999. Sr. Margie Veronica introduced him to Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit and he got to know several of its members who worshiped at Grace. Fr. Steve welcomed the Carthage WSHS group to hold their monthly Corporate Communion at Grace, and he always celebrated Eucharist with them.

At the request of Sr. Laverne Peter and Sr. Nancy Clare, Sr. Agnes called his home to ask him if he would agree to become an honorary Companion. Fr. Steve replied with sincere humility, “Liz, I’ve done nothing to deserve this honor.” He said it as if he were being offered the Nobel Peace Prize. He accepted the invitation and Sr. Barbara Veronica was able to visit him and admit him as a Companion of Worker Sisters/Worker Brothers during his last days in Hospice care. He is now a perpetual member of our Communion of Saints.

Among the many gifts he gave to our Community during his ministry at Grace Church was the beautiful funeral he provided for our beloved Sr. Margie Veronica. The church was filled to overflowing. In his eulogy sermon Fr. Steve said, “I can state with confidence that every one of you here felt that you had a special bond with Margie. She was that kind of person.” On learning of Fr. Steve’s death, Sr. Paula Adelaide remembered these words. She repeated them in his honor: “I can state with confidence that every one of us who knew him feels that we had a special bond with Steve. He was that kind of person.”

Fr. Steve had the wonderful gift of seeing each individual as special and letting that person feel special too. We are so grateful for his life and his ongoing contributions to our Community. We will miss his earthly presence, yet we can be sure that now he is praying for us in the presence of God.



SPIRITUAL SHARING

A very interesting article by Fr. Firth on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how the figure of seven came about. At the end of the article, he states that God is generous and provides more gifts depending upon our needs at the time. I know in my life God has provided so much when I have been in need, especially when I have had some special project. God is always there beside me to gently guide and direct me as needed.

I know God is with me and in me and all around me wherever I go and whatever I do. But often I forget and try to carry on myself and of course end up with problems. Praise God he is there to correct me and gently push me in the right direction.

Yes, we know that God is with us always, “to the ends of the earth”. But it is not easy to keep that in mind all day long. The Living Compass Lenten Study begins with “Just remember that God is with you.” I have been trying to keep that in mind more than ever before. It keeps me grounded. We take so much for granted. Our health, our material comforts, etc. But the most important things are summarized: Love God, love other people in your life. There lies true meaning.

I really don't have much to say this month, I enjoyed our Corporate Communion as we had 11 people present and it was great to catch up with everyone.

I am listening to tapes on life improvement and though God is not mentioned in most, God is there. It helps with attitude and ability to listen to other voices. I have been going to our enrichment classes between the 8 and 10 am services. They used to be called Sunday School but different voices speak there also. My meditations in the a.m. and EFM reading have also been leading to wisdom and discernment.

I really enjoyed learning that Liz had picked the name of Agnes. Sr. Agnes is a saint Liz has related to many times. I liked her *Bulletin* article as well and I especially liked her example of “not at first listening to her mother when she said how much she missed her car.” Good example as I think all of us can relate to a time when we listened to the words but not the feelings that were behind the words. I pray that I will be sensitized more often to listen with the ear of my heart, not only to God, but to those before me who speak, sometimes with words, but often in other ways.

I am grateful for the fruit of the daily quiet time I used during Lent to re-read parts of the Preface to the Benedictine Rule, and the commentary by Casey, another Benedictine Monk. During this Lenten period, it made me realize why reading a spiritual master provides endless opportunities to dig deeper.

I really was able to listen with the ear of my heart and understand at a deeper level. It prepared me for a wonderful Lenten and Easter blessing this year. It proved to me how important it is to take time to listen with the ear of my heart and of how often I hurry through things and don't take the time necessary to really listen in order to hear the message or still small voice for me that day.

I loved Sr. Agnes' insight at the end of her sharing when she realized how harshly she had judged the apostles for not being able to quickly understand what had happened to Jesus after his Good Friday suffering. I used to think they must have found it easier to believe than we do, but I realize that we human beings need to be called over and over again to be still and know.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

The Gift of Counsel By Rev. Charles Lenz, Companion, WSHS



Counsel: the act of giving and/or receiving of advice, wisdom, clarification, a point of view or another personal thought or thoughts on moral, ethical, theological or other topics or in other situations where a point of view is sought and/or offered. Counsel presumes a relationship (personal, professional or spiritual) between the people involved as the giver and/or receiver of counsel. (My personal definition.)

Counsel is a gift, understood biblically, which is given by God, through the Holy Spirit, to an individual(s) and is used in the context of a personal, corporate or community relationship. Counsel is given and received in individual, group or community situations. It is understood as wisdom by Paul, who describes it as the secret and hidden wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 2:7 referring to Isaiah 11:2)

As such, Counsel is equated with Wisdom whose roots in the Old Testament, especially, are clear and well developed. The Wisdom Literature comprises the books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Daniel and Wisdom of Solomon. The best known example of wisdom is found in the Book of Proverbs. I recommend reading Proverbs to get the flavour of wisdom and counsel from a biblical perspective. Personally, I consider many of Jesus' Parables to be illustrative of wisdom and counsel in 1st century Palestine. Examples are 'The Parable of the Rich Man' (Luke 12: 1-13) and 'The Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son.' (Luke 14: 1-32) Their principles are equally clear today.

Jesus, before his death and resurrection, speaks of the giving of the Spirit, the Paraclete, to his disciples (John:14: 16). At the first Pentecost, the Spirit is given to the disciples as tongues of fire which 'ignite' them, especially Peter, to further their activity without Jesus' physical presence in their lives. (Acts 2: 1-21)

For our purposes, the Gift or Counsel is received in faith and, as such, is rooted in the individual's God given gifts. It is therefore exercised in and through faith and not through the individual's or group's sole volition.

For me personally the Gift of Counsel is a weighty one, given in charity and with humility. It is not offered without forethought, prayer or due consideration for its effects, either for the giver or the receiver.

For many years now I have understood ministry of any kind, lay or ordained, to be based in the use of one's spiritual gifts in the wider community. This includes the church and the community at large. This understanding is rooted in New Testament scripture, particularly in Romans, as well as 1 Corinthians.

Romans 12:3-8 describes the context for, and the content of, spiritual gifts and their use. The writer begins by describing the grounding and source of spiritual gifts and the attitude with which they are to be used: *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."*

(Romans 12:3)

The attitude of humility associated with their use is rooted in the fact that these gifts are sourced from God, a necessary counterbalance to what may be the all too human tendency to think we are at the center. Personally, I find this a most helpful, even salutary reminder, that not only are these gifts from God but that they are also to be used within community. We do not exercise these gifts on our own nor in isolation. We use our gifts in community.

The writer also provides context: *"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another."* (Romans 12: 4-5)

The writer then goes on to describe the variety and quality of these gifts. *"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith, ministry, in ministry; the teacher, in teaching, the exhorter in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."* (Romans 12:6-8)

This Romans passage thus provides for me a closely-knit setting, description and definition of spiritual gifts and their use.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-13 provides an expanded version of the same teaching. I recommend you read it carefully, looking for the parallels it provides to the Romans 12 passage above. You may find it helpful as you focus on your spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 13 provides a further attitudinal grounding for the use of spiritual gifts, both personally and within community. Although the passage has been used in many marriage services, its primary purpose, in my view, is to further base our understanding and use of spiritual gifts in love. Patience, kindness, resistance to arrogance, boastfulness or envy, neither irritable nor resentful, all describe this attitude of love.

(1 Corinthians 13: 4-6)

The Gift of Counsel, understood in these ways, is also an important part of community building as I understand it. As our WSHS/WBHS Community moves into its future, the Gift of Counsel will be an invaluable and essential part of the process of discernment.

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 could like to share.*

1. The Rev. Charles Lenz, Comp., WSHS speaks of the Gift of Counsel as a relationship between people where one is giver and/or receiver of counsel. As you read this fine article, please take a bit and look at the pictures on the front of this Bulletin and reflect upon them.
2. As we think about counsel, it is a deep spiritual commitment to listen to one another. As we know, we are to listen with the “ear of our heart”. This makes this special time with each other deep, personal and in love. It is truly a gift we can give one another.
3. Look again at the pictures. You will see what I feel is deep heartfelt sharing and listening. This takes within each the ability to both listen and receive. Often, it can be a joyful exchange and at other times one that may be painful. Have you encountered both exchanges and were you able to perhaps learn and deal from them.
4. Take time to both read and digest this well written article by Fr. Charlie. Perhaps there are areas you would like to explore and pray about, as Sr. Deborah tells us to “listen and learn”.

Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS