

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE
August 2022

Bulletin Cover - Artwork of Sister Jane Bartimaeus photographed by Sr. Deborah

On a visit to Sister Jane's home, I saw the Gift of Knowledge in this artwork she had created some years ago. Jesus' teaching and the guidance of The Holy Spirit in our lives enables us to receive this Gift of Knowledge. Thank you for sharing your talent Sister Jane.

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	
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

August 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	August 27 - 11:30 AM ET
Central Regional USA	Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS, nancybrooks40@gmail.com	August 27 - 2:00 PM CT
Southern Regional USA	Sr. Kathleen Rachel, WSHS, srkathleenrachel@gmail.com	August 27 - 3:30 PM ET
Western Regional USA	Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS, wguyton17@gmail.com	August 27 - 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
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**

Let us keep praying that our Haitian loved ones stay safe from harm. Also, that they have plenty of food, shelter, medical care and that they will always be kept in our Lord's prayers.

Global Hydration was out of the water tablets that we always order from them. They will have a supply this coming week. I have ordered one case for July, so the June and July supply will be shipped together this month. All together three cases will be shipped in the combined months.

*Prayers and Blessings to All our Community,
Sr. Alexandra Francis*

**FROM YOUR DIRECTORS****GIFT for Sr. LaVerne in honor of her service to our Community**

Dear Community,

In honor of and thanksgiving for the years of service from our dear Sr. LaVerne Peter, it was decided to see if we could send something to Br. Frantz Benedict's church in Haiti. The name of his church is Notre Dame.

I spoke with Br. Frantz and he suggested that since their church does not have a Verger, it would be nice to have the staff and vestments for that office. I contacted a supplier and have ordered the vestments sent to Br. Frantz.

I am enclosing an email from Fr. Frantz expressing his thanks. He was so pleased about our gift and I was touched that he thanks us for our prayers and wished all us women "Happy Mother's Day". He always makes me feel special. As I have said before, when Br. Frantz is in the room he brings Jesus with him.

Update from Br. Frantz Benedict – May 18, 2022

Thank you for ordering and sending the verger vestments. I will let you know as soon I have them. My thanks to the whole community for their prayers and the fact that they help me in my ministry in this particular hard and difficult time in Haiti.

Violence and kidnapping continue but police have begun to attack the gangsters. This is a big difference. Gangsters kidnapped a bus with a few passengers. Police were able to free them. Pray for Haitian police.

Many of members of Notre Dame, my parish, are living in those unsecured areas and God has protected them. Please continue to pray for them and for me as well. My greetings to all and each of you. Happy Easter and happy Mother's Day.

UPDATE from Br. Frantz Benedict – July 13, 2022

(The garment was shipped on June 29, 2022.)

Dear Sr. Nancy Teresa,

Thanks so much for the verger garment. It is new and beautiful. To whomever I show it, they like it! This is precisely what I expected. I am delighted to get it. It was my dream to use it in my church as a sacred symbol in our procession.

Thanks so much to the Community.

Br Frantz Benedict



SPIRITUAL SHARING

As a child, I felt an unspoken expectation to be perfect, to the point that I could never admit to being wrong. I'd know I was wrong, but the words of admission or apology simply wouldn't come. This carried over into adulthood, and I generalized it into a need to make things around me perfect, too. I set unreasonably high standards for myself and others. With maturity comes more wisdom, and I slowly learned to accept imperfection in myself and in others. Still working on it, but I keep reminding myself that God loves each one of us despite our flaws and mistakes.

I did enjoy the recent *Bulletin* article on listening and understanding. I participated in our online Retreat on Saturday afternoon. I really liked listening to what was shared about the death penalty. I am a member of a group that works to abolish the death penalty in Tennessee.

I found my path changing when I first joined WSHS because I had to balance different groups of people (family, church members, friends, and WSHS) who didn't all understand my involvement in the WSHS Community. A little later, family and friends started to understand the "new" me. Our Community brought out some extra gifts in my personality and church life.

I enjoyed our new Sr. Agnes's reflection in the *Bulletin* and thought that example of her mother and the car was a good one, as I could relate to this at times; listening to the words but not to the feelings behind the words. Sometimes I don't want to listen because I am in a hurry and if I listen with the ear of my heart, then I will be asked to feel or say or do something. I think that's what is referred to as a "hardened heart". I have to guard against this.

The moment in Fr. Lenz's article that most grabbed my attention and touched my heart was his reference to Romans 12:6-8: "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: . . .; the compassionate, in cheerfulness." That had never struck me before, the juxtaposition of compassion and cheerfulness. To me the idea of compassion always seemed to infer a quiet empathy, while cheerfulness is smiles and laughter and, well, more bubbly. But this verse links them in a new way that makes perfect sense.

I had a flashback to a long-forgotten memory from graduate school (back in the dark ages). My boss had a heart attack, and while I was not at all sure it was my place to visit him in the hospital, I felt like I should. When I arrived, the room was dim, the shades were drawn, his wife was sitting in a corner writing letters. He was lying back against his pillows, his face expressionless. At his wife's urging, I edged into the room and sat in the chair near the bed. Tongue-tied as I was, I managed to say something, and before I quite knew how it happened, we were in a lively three-way conversation. I didn't stay long, but when I left, they both seemed much younger than when I arrived. He was still just as gravely ill, but both were smiling widely. Now (so many years later!) I realize that compassion isn't always solemn; it includes an element of sharing God's joy with the afflicted.

I'm trying to be more aware of and sensitive to each person I encounter. I remember the response of one author I knew after someone at a literature festival behaved boorishly. Another person began to criticize the offender, and the author quietly said, "She just wants to be loved." John 3:21 reminded me, "But the ones who are true and do what is right are walking in the daylight so others can clearly see they are walking with the Creator."

I found Fr. Charlie's article on [The Gift of Counsel](#) excellent. I especially liked this sentence of his: "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." I hope I am alert to receiving this gift and using it appropriately with gratitude, while also being confident enough to trust God's power to use me for counsel of another, able to step out in faith at such a time. I want to remember that it is out of God's vast wisdom and love that allows me to use this gift in the best possible way. I hope I will remember that prayer and listening with the ear of my heart is also very essential.

I enjoyed the Zoom Retreat. It was wonderful to see so many Community members. The presentations were very good, certainly made for great conversations. It was not quite the same as being together in St. Louis, but a wonderful experience.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

The Gift of Knowledge

By

Br. David, WBHS



Br. David lives in Cavan Monaghan, Ontario, Canada. He was admitted as a Lay Worker in February 1983.

One of the wonderful gifts of the Holy Spirit is the gift of Knowledge which St. Paul speaks of in his letters to the Corinthians. I have always enjoyed reading the letters of Paul as they seem to speak to me personally in many ways.

1 Corinthians 12:6-11

1 Cor 12:8 The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge.

1 Cor 12:10 The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God's message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said.

1 Cor 12:11 But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.

In Greek the word for knowledge is Gnosis and it means knowledge and understanding. Knowledge without understanding can be meaningless. You may know a great deal of information on many different subjects, but if you don't understand the information, you cannot explain it to others.

By the gift of knowledge, the Holy Spirit enlightens us with an inner light, that we may know ourselves and discern the correct way to follow Christ. By the gift of Knowledge, the Holy Spirit illuminates us more and more as he lets his divine light stream into our hearts and enlighten us with the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze and clarify information and ideas which are necessary to the well being of the Body.

The Scriptural emphasis in 1 Corinthians 12:8 is on the ability to speak this knowledge to others in a given situation. In the opening passages of 1 Corinthians, Paul spoke of knowledge and recognized that the highest form of knowledge among people is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What we can conclude, then, is the gift of knowledge is an understanding of the things in this world and in our lives that are founded in the Gospel and rooted in the Scriptures. This gift is closely related to the gift of wisdom which is also alluded to by Paul.

The Holy Spirit gives this spiritual gift to some believers to bring about understanding and to inform the church or individual believers. The gift of knowledge allows a believer to relate the Scriptures, and particularly the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to all aspects of life in this world. They can see how it connects to every situation and circumstance and how the reality and truth of the Gospel is to inform every decision a Christian makes in their daily life.

In 1958, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a letter as if he were Paul the Apostle. In that letter, he stated:

I must remind you, as I have said to so many others, that the church is the body of Christ, and so when the church is true to its nature, it knows neither division nor disunity. But I am disturbed about what you are doing to the body of Christ. They tell me that you have, within Protestantism, more than 256 denominations. The tragedy is not so much that you have such a multiplicity of denominations but that most of them are warring against each other with a claim to absolute truth. I am not calling for uniformity, I am calling for unity. This narrow sectarianism is destroying the unity of the body of Christ. You must come to see that God is neither Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, or any other denomination. God is bigger than all our denominations. You must come to see that.

Now sixty-four years after that address, there are even more denominations. On the internet and television there are many who claim to speak in God's name but do not.

This is an area where the gift of Knowledge and understanding can keep true Christians fixed in the faith, knowing that we are all one in Christ, whatever our denomination. Christ is our focus, and we look for Christ in all those around us no matter what their situation or faith. We need to be able to discern the truth.

We may be very religious and spend much time in the study of the Bible, trying to understand the scriptures and apply them to our life, but our knowledge of God can never begin or advance this way. We will have an accumulation of knowledge of the Bible but no real understanding. Many sincere "born-again" Christians are under the illusion that Christian growth comes this way.

There are times when the gift of the word of knowledge works with the gift of wisdom. First God gives the believer the gift of knowledge in regard to a particular situation and then he gives understanding and wisdom on how to apply that knowledge. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 10:4

The weapons we use in our fight are not the world's weapons but God's powerful weapons, which we use to destroy strongholds.

The Bible has no life changing power while the words remain on the page, but the Holy Spirit can breathe life into the written word so that it becomes the living word which can be grafted into our hearts. Jesus Christ is the living word.

Also, in 2 Peter 1: 5-8 Peter tells us to make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue and virtue with knowledge and knowledge with self-control and self control with steadfastness and steadfastness with Godliness and Godliness with affection and affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout my thirty-eight years in the Community, I have met many members who seem to have the spiritual gifts of knowledge and understanding. Some have passed to the Communion of Saints but there are still many who join us at Retreats and we can be thankful to God for giving us such Spirit filled Community members. The Community of Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit is our very special anchor as we all continue our Faith journey with Christ.

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. In his Article on the Gift of Wisdom, Br. David shares with an excellent and knowledgeable quote from The Rev. Martin Luther King. Take time to read and reflect on his words and perhaps write down your thoughts.
2. In my late husband's family there were splits about denominations and Sunday dinners could be difficult at times. I feel Br. David brings this to light where he states "by the gift of knowledge the Holy Spirit enlightens us with an inner light that we know ourselves and discern the way to follow Christ". Share your feelings.
3. In his article Br. David shares another word that is part of knowledge and that is wisdom. In wisdom we take time to understand and reflect on knowledge. We may share the thought of Einstein where he says "Wisdom is not a product of schooling but the lifetime attempt to acquire it". Good words to think on.
4. Perhaps when you write your monthly letter, consider sharing where you have felt the "spiritual gifts of knowledge and understanding" on our journey as members of our Blessed Community.

Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS