

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



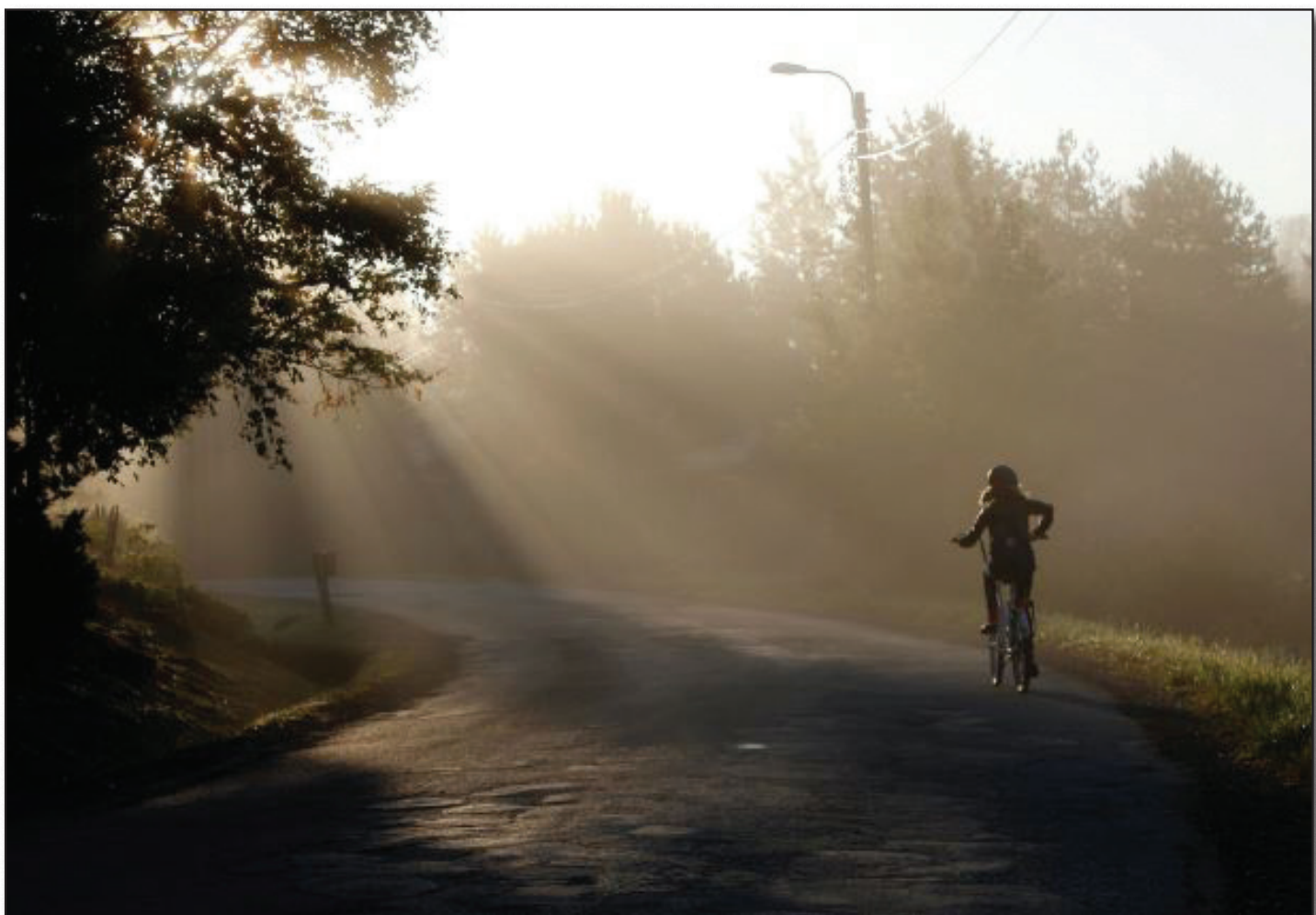
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# **BULLETIN**

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**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**THE GIFT OF HOLY FEAR**  
**September 2022**

**Bulletin Cover -Photo by Minna Autio from Unsplash.com**

This photo seems to represent our childlike faith as we move on our journey, trusting and riding toward the light.

**Community Communication Contacts:**

**Prayer Requests and News Notes for the monthly Bulletin** - email Br. Ephrem, [apergydesign@gmail.com](mailto:apergydesign@gmail.com) or see green sheets for his mailing address.

**Changes of address, phone numbers, email addresses** - email Sr. Christine [casturges@gmail.com](mailto:casturges@gmail.com) or Sr. Wendy Samuel [virtue54@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:Callaghan@aol.com), Sr. Christine: [casturges@gmail.com](mailto:casturges@gmail.com) or Sr. Wendy Samuel: [virtue54@outlook.com](mailto: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>	
Web Addresses: <a href="http://workersisters.org">workersisters.org</a> <a href="http://workerbrothers.org">workerbrothers.org</a>	
Trina Avedisian, Friend, WSHS	Layout & Design WSHS/WBHS Bulletin
Sr. Sharron Magdalene, WSHS	Proof Reader
Contributing Staff	
Br. Ephrem, WBHS	News Notes and Prayer List
Sr. Christine, WSHS	Co-Director
Sr. Wendy Samuel, WSHS	Co-Director
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**CALENDAR**
**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
REGIONAL GATHERINGS**
**September 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	<b>Sept. 24</b> - 11:30 AM ET
Central Regional USA	Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS, nancybrooks40@gmail.com	<b>Sept. 24</b> - 2:00 PM CT
Southern Regional USA	Sr. Kathleen Rachel, WSHS, srkathleenrachel@gmail.com	<b>Sept. 24</b> - 3:30 PM ET
Western Regional USA	Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS, wguyton17@gmail.com	<b>Sept. 24</b> - 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**
**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 are now in the month of September and we continue to keep our Haitian loved ones in our prayers. We support them with water tablets, hoping that the tablets help keep them from getting cholera and other diseases while Br. Frantz Benedict and his team work diligently, distributing the tablets throughout their communities.

This month Global Hydration is forwarding one case to Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley as she ships them to Haiti in a timely manner. We appreciate her diligence in sending them to Haiti as soon as possible.

Here is hoping that our entire Community is staying safe along with their families.

Blessings and Prayers,  
Sr. Alexandra Francis



## FROM YOUR DIRECTORS



*Here is a letter Fr. Beachy wrote to Chapter following the death of Sr. Meredyth James. We think his words reflect what we are feeling as we grieve the death of Fr. Bill Beachy.*

It grieves me to miss our meeting together at this time. If I were with you, I think I would want to do what Job asked his friends to do: just be silent and be together. Can't do that, but perhaps whatever I manage to write from here on will convey my silent presence, sitting with you before the Lord our God, patiently looking for His compassion and strength. His assurance and direction.

I'm not really sure how I deal with death. Certainly had quite a bit in the family by the time I was eight and left to live with my cousins who raised me from then on. My father was the great loss, of course, but his father, maternal grandmother and an aunt also. I remember the caskets in the parlor. All these losses were a heavy experience for a child.

I find myself saying that following one's passing, complete healing surely comes, and

much more fullness of life. But whatever the person gains, I still experience the loss of warmth, humor, wisdom and the blessing of friendship. In the specifics of the loss, though, I ask myself if I am not learning to appreciate this person's value. That can be good. While it may hurt a bit to experience the person's value, I never want to stop hurting. I confess I do expect a certain aspect of the pain to diminish, but if I didn't have some pain, I would suspect I no longer cared as much.

I remember visiting with a woman in the hospital who was working with her grief over her husband's death. She said it was as if it had left a big hole in her life. I agreed that it does, and then found myself saying that while the hole may never get smaller, we do have the opportunity to expand other relationships so that as our lives continue, the hole is comparatively smaller. It seemed to help her, and it continues to help me.

What helps most, though, is that as I appreciate more and more this wonderful person who has passed on, I find it helps me realize how much I can grow in appreciation of and love to God. Whatever else grief may do, God intends it to draw us closer to Him and to life. So, let us be still and know that He is God.

To you all, God's love and mine,  
*Bill*



## SPIRITUAL SHARING

Ted wrote a good article this month on fortitude or the courage to be. As I age, I realize that I've developed this gift more and more through losses. I find my wisdom comes, I think, with age. Mainly, the gift of fortitude – to accept those things I cannot change. I have found courage to become stronger through my losses and disappointments. I am working to replace bitterness or regret with a sense of gratitude. Even in the difficult challenges when I maybe don't feel so peaceful or well or whole, I now try to persevere and accept with grace those losses.

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I just want to hold the world up in prayer that God's will be done and that His light and love begin to permeate the darkness around us.

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I spent some additional time this morning re-reading Fr. Charlie's article and found much food for thought. 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, ether 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 hope to use it regularly in a spiritually healthy way to build up the Body of Christ, one person at a time, always reminding myself, as Fr. Charlie shared, that this gift comes from the Father and is mediated to me through the Holy Spirit.

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At a past funeral for a 93-year-old uncle, one comment kept reoccurring in each one's memories. The comment that struck me each time was that the uncle was constantly keeping his family in prayer. For the conversion of the unconverted especially. I have 4 siblings, and only one of them is a church attender. I believe I have been given the task of spending more time praying for and attending to their spiritual status. As we baby boomers age, perhaps it is time to think more of eternity. Something for me to work on.

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I found Fr. Charlie's article on Counsel enlightening and instructive. I know after his retirement he did counselling work, so he is certainly the one to be writing this article. Some of the gifts seem to go together. They can be more than one gift. The gift of Counsel also needs the gift of Courage and Knowledge to enable someone to step out confidently to help others. Fr. Beachy and Sr. Angela were wonderful to talk with about problems and concerns. I thank God that I had the opportunity to know them both and to talk with them.

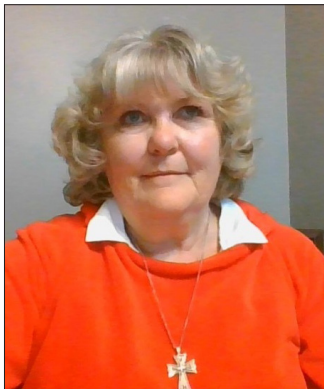


## FORMATION AND TRAINING

### The Seventh Gift of the Holy Spirit – Fear of the Lord

By

Sr. Wendy Samuel, WSHS



*Sr. Wendy Samuel lives in Stoney Creek, Ontario. She was admitted as a Lay Worker in 1991.*

Proverbs 1: Verse 7

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of *knowledge*; fools despise *wisdom* and instruction.”

At the time WSHS Chapter was working on deciding the monthly articles based on the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit for the upcoming year, I was asked to pick one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that I would like to write about. Lo and behold, the Spirit moved me to pick the one I would least like to write about, probably because it was the most daunting one in my mind, simply because of its title – “Fear of the Lord”.

This is how the Spirit works in me. As always I am given different choices and, I must say, through most of my choices in my every day (ordinary) life, I don't wait to “listen” or to “hear” the voice of my Lord. I simply react to the facts and knowledge I have at the time, and my own desire for a specific outcome. So, when something like being asked to write an article comes up, and given the choice of

what to write, I am not surprised that the Holy Spirit moved me to pick a topic that would challenge me and possibly teach me things I should know but do not know. This topic was used to bring light and truth into my life!

“Fear of the Lord” initially brought to my mind what fear of the Lord was throughout my childhood: holy damnation, condemnation for unforgiveable sins, judgement day retribution, and on and on ... as there are so many things for the Lord to find that I have done for which forgiveness is needed, and so as a child I “feared the Lord”. As I grew older and closer to the Spirit, not to mention being taught as an adult in the workings of the Holy Spirit, my spiritual life has taught me what “fear of the Lord” really is all about. I may be living the truth of “fear of the Lord” in my life but thought it would be a very difficult topic to discuss. Hence my reluctance to pick this topic! Holy Spirit smiles and shakes his/her head in fondness of my ever-reluctant self!

In beginning my research for clarification and biblical truth, I came across several references where the definition of Holy fear is **love’s fear**, namely, the kind of fear that is inspired by love. It’s a fear based upon reverence and respect for a person or a thing (or God!) we love. For example, when we genuinely love another person we will live inside of a **healthy** anxiety, a worry that our actions should never disappoint, disrespect, or violate the other person (e.g., the love and respect one would have for one’s parents).

I am still, and I believe always will be, child-like in my relationship with God. Even today, like a child, I fear His wrath when I misbehave or make a huge mistake; when I have done something that I know in my heart and mind is wrong, but I do it anyway! I immediately fall back into my childhood apprehension that I am going to be punished for this. Foolish child that I am and immediately after my apprehension, I wonder if I will ever grow up and trust in God’s love!

I immediately remember reading that the words “**fear the Lord**” are probably three of the most misunderstood words in the Bible. Our human minds go straight to the thought that the Lord is one to be feared (totally relate to this). How far this is from the truth. We seem to forget that like a loving and forgiving parent, God will find a way to show us the error of our ways and always, always forgive us if we are truly contrite and seek his forgiveness. Afterall, this was the gift of Jesus’ sacrifice!

To fear the Lord leads us to respect Him and His laws. We learn how we are to act and even what we should say by fearing the Lord. This fear, or reverence and awe, makes us think before we act or speak. Thus, we gain knowledge, we gain wisdom. (Do you see the connection and flow between the seven gifts?) In the words of Bruce K. Waltke, “*knowledge* is inseparable from *wisdom*.” Waltke goes on to write in The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, “that to have wisdom means there is an internalization of spiritual knowledge.” To have *fear of the Lord* is to have knowledge. To have knowledge is to have wisdom (back to Proverbs 1: 7).

There are several references throughout the Bible on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the one that speaks to me the most on “Fear of the Lord” is from Proverbs 2: 1-5. The verses are contained under the title “The Value of *Wisdom*” (again, the threads that join the gifts) and says: “My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to *wisdom* and inclining your heart to *understanding*; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for under-

standing; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures – then you will understand the **fear of the Lord** and find the *knowledge* of God.”

In summary, as I read through the different references, they all had a common theme and were all closely related to each of the other six gifts of the Spirit. In my mind, if one were to receive all seven of the gifts, it would make one as perfect as is humanly/divinely possible!

God is good and in His love for us has bestowed upon us one or more of these gifts. There is no end to discovering how much He loves us and the gift(s) He gives to each one of us.

My personal gift of “fear of the Lord” is equal to and received by me as “the Love of God.”

### 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. Sr. Wendy Samuel speaks of picking this month’s topic and that she felt it would challenge her. Do these words challenge you when you read them? Take some time to reflect on this, maybe make a few notes.
2. Do you agree with Sr. Wendy Samuel when she says that the words “fear of the Lord” are probably three of the most misunderstood words in the Bible.
3. What happens if we change the word “fear” of the Lord to respect or honor? Does that change how you now read these words?
4. Sr. Wendy Samuel speaks of “holy fear” as “love’s fear” a love inspired by love based on reverence and respect for a person. Can you see those words in that light?
5. As I write these words and think about God’s forgiveness I am reminded of a book by Morton Kelsey “The Other Side of Silence”. In the Book he shares the “Ballad of Judas Iscariot”. If you are not familiar with this do try to find it and read it as it speaks of Judas, one of the worst of sinners and yet Christ comes to meet him and forgive him. The strength God’s unlimited forgiveness.

*Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS*