

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



# BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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PRAYER FOR THE SEVENFOLD GIFTS  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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**Come thou Blessed Spirit of God and dwell in my soul.**

**Grant me the Gift of Wisdom..**

that my heart's eyes and ears will be  
open to know your will for me and others.

**Grant me the Gift of Understanding..**

that I may comprehend your great  
mysteries and be compassionate.

**Grant me the Gift of Counsel..**

that I will have a discerning spirit  
and guide others according to your will.

**Grant me the Gift of Ghostly Strength..**

that I may persevere in the building  
of your kingdom.

**Grant me the Gift of Knowledge..**

that I may know your word  
and testify to your truth.

**Grant me the Gift of Holy Fear..**

that the awesome wonders of your  
creation will be unfolded.

**Grant me the Gift of Holiness..**

that we may share an intimacy  
that will draw others to you. Amen.

*Written by WSHS Chapter*

**THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**November 2022**

**Bulletin Cover**

A Prayer for The Sevenfold Gifts of The Holy Spirit written by Chapter in our earlier days, still relevant today.

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**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 – This project has been discontinued until the situation in Haiti is resolved.**

**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  
REGIONAL GATHERINGS  
November 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>Nov. 19th</b> - 11:30 AM ET
Central Regional USA	Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS, nancybrooks40@gmail.com	<b>Nov. 19th</b> - 2:00 PM CT
Southern Regional USA	Sr. Kathleen Rachel, WSHS, srkathleenrachel@gmail.com	<b>Nov. 19th</b> - 3:30 PM ET
Western Regional USA	Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS, wguyton17@gmail.com	<b>Nov. 19th</b> - 10:00 AM PT

**In-person Corporate Communion**

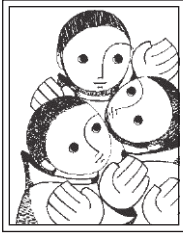
Carthage, Missouri	Sr. Barbara Veronica, WSHS	TBD
Pleasant Hill, Tennessee	Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS	TBD

**REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES**  
**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**




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**SPECIAL NEWS NOTES**
**Our Companion Community in Zimbabwe**

*Sr. Carol Matthew wrote the following article to introduce us again to our Companion Community in Zimbabwe. We want to remember how this relationship started and understand why this faithful group, **Monastery of the Holy Spirit – Gweru, Zimbabwe Africa**, is listed every month in our Bulletin's Prayer Requests.*

Sr. Angela had a vision that someday our Community would have members in Africa. In the year 2000, that vision came to fruition as Sr. Meredyth James and I travelled to Harare in Zimbabwe to visit an Anglican Community in the small village of Gokwe.

The Sisters and Friars cared for the children in the orphanage; they taught school; they cared for the sick. Their love and faith in the power of The Holy Spirit was unshakeable. As their voices blended in song and in prayer, we knew we were on holy ground .

Before we left on our trip, we chose a song to keep in our hearts. It was Be Thou Our Vision. We were awakened for breakfast our first morning by a lovely young Sister who told us that she had a gift for us. In her lovely soft voice she sang Be thou Our Vision. It was the song The Spirit told her to sing, so two Worker Sisters from the other side of the world cried tears of joy.

Our trip to Zimbabwe changed my life in many ways. In 2004, Sr. Teresah and Sr. Gladys joined us in Niagara Falls, Ontario for our annual Spring Retreat. Their presence blessed us beyond measure. Their lives are not easy as they struggle for food; yet, they continue to build and grow. They are faithful in their prayers for each of us. Please keep them in your prayers for safety for protection and that they know that we love them. Sr. Angela's vision for our Community continues as we are loved and supported by our Companion Community in Zimbabwe.

With love and thanksgiving for this great gift.

*Sr. Carol Matthew WSHS*


**Special Prayers for Br. Frantz Benedict**

Please pray without ceasing for the release and safety of our dear Br. Frantz Benedict (Fr. Franz Cole).



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**FROM YOUR DIRECTORS****DISCERNING OUR FUTURE AS A COMMUNITY**  
**Sr. Nancy Clare, WSHS and Sr. Helen Joseph, WSHS**

We, as a Community, have recently celebrated our 50th Anniversary. Fifty years! What an accomplishment for what started out as a small group of women meeting in an upper room of St. Mary's Episcopal church in Kansas City, Missouri. Our founder, Sr. Angela, had a vision which bloomed into a desire to begin a Lay Community offering women, and later men, the opportunity to experience a closer personal relationship with God. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit this vision has blossomed into a Community of over 100 members coming together via Zoom or in person. We share our joys as well as our sorrows, growing individually and together into the people God created us to be. This Community has helped shape who we are, as well as given us lifelong friendships. It has created for us an unconditional loving, accepting family, a safehaven when we need shelter from a world that can be harsh, unloving and unjust.

Sr. Angela, in her vision and years of discerning for this Community, has offered us such a gift of love in the form of our *Community Rule*. This is at the center of our Community life. It was offered to us in the context of the times in which we then lived. Sr. Angela discerned that laywomen could benefit from a *Rule of Life* even though they remained in the temporal aspects of their life as everyday people in the world. We have had years of formation and hopefully we still cherish this gift of our Community. Yes, we have much to be thankful for.

Growth does not come without change. We, as a Community, have changed throughout those first 50 years. Some of those changes weren't easy but we got through them because we had each other. Have you ever asked yourself, "what would I do without the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit"? Do you ever wonder who put the *Bulletin* together, who prays for you every day, how the annual themes get decided or the annual Retreats get planned and organized? These are just some of the details that could easily be taken for granted.

Our Community, can offer so much to others who, like you once were, are searching for more meaning and purpose and acceptance in their lives. Today we are at a point where we have the responsibility, if we choose, to offer this wonderful gift of our Community, to those who will come in the future. This means some real discernment and then action on the part of each Community member.

Will we, as a Community, survive another 50 years? Now is the time we need to begin some inward soul searching. As we look forward to the next 5, 10, 50 years we must to ask ourselves some serious, possibly challenging, yet necessary questions.

What does our WS/WBHS Community mean to me as an individual? Whether you are a Sister, Brother, Worker, Companion, Friend or Applicant, is our Community an important part of your life? How important?

What direction do you see our Community heading in these next years? How can our Community offer what is most needed in today's world and what is the best way to meet that need? What process can we use to discern that path together as a Community?

How can we, as a Community attract new members, young and older? How do we brand ourselves in and at a time when it seems younger people are moving away from the institutional church?

How do we ease the workload of a few members and distribute it reasonably onto the shoulders of many? Our average age in Community is hitting the senior years. There are those of us who work full time, are raising young families, have commitments in our own home communities and churches. Overload is a real issue in our society. We all made a commitment to, and receive so much from our Community. Are we prepared to give back? How wisely do we use the gifts God granted us? (*Read 1 Cor. 12*)

What would a restructuring of our administration look like? How can we reduce the Chapter size back to the original number of 12 members but not overburden those positions? How do we include ALL of Community in decision making, administrative work, formation, training, technology, outreach?

These are just a few of the questions Chapter is currently looking at. As a Community we need to begin a discernment process of where we are heading, how we want to get there, and how we make it happen. We have been blessed with strong leaders. Sr. Angela began our journey and Sr. LaVerne has guided us through those difficult years after our Founder died. Soon it will be time for Sr. LaVerne to retire from the position of Prioress. How will we, as Community choose another Prioress? What do we expect of our next Prioress?

There are a lot of questions and not many answers right now. The members of Chapter invite you, as part of our Community, to begin this discernment process with us. Chapter asks for your input and your prayers.

Go back and re-read the questions posed in this article. Pray about them, listen, and then please write down your thoughts, your own questions, your ideas, hopes, suggestions, and send them to Sr. Helen Joseph ([helenplenz@gmail.com](mailto:helenplenz@gmail.com)).

In the near future, you will also be receiving a survey from Sr. Wendy Samuel over which we encourage you to take time to reflect upon and respond to. We also encourage you to discuss this topic at your next Zoom Corporate Communion. Have someone take notes and send them along as well so that we may go forward together, all of us together discerning the direction forward.

We have been given a great gift. That gift is our Community. Let's not squander it or hide it under a bushel. Our prayer is that each and every one of us: Friend, Companion, Worker, Applicant, Sister and Brother will hold up their light so that our Community will shine as a beacon for others. Together now, and into the next 50 years.




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**SPIRITUAL SHARING**


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I believe that is the Holy Spirit working in me, urging me to confess, to be quite specific in confessing and then be willing (sometimes reluctantly but sometimes more eagerly) to let it go and give it to God. Of course, God already knows exactly what I am tempted to cover up. It is I who needs to see it clearly and to stop manipulating what I have done. I need to focus on what makes me most uncomfortable and even sometimes ashamed, to be able to go forward in my most important relationship. And it is fearful, in a sense, because I have nowhere else to whom I can turn. Certainly no one else to whom I want to turn. It's not about fear of God's wrath at all; it's fear of losing the relationship of trust and love, fear of marring other aspects of my life unless I can let this one be faced and let go. I am so very grateful for this "fear of the Lord" because otherwise I would sink back into forgetfulness, sloth, excuses and thus not be able to go forward, and gradually lose the vitality of my relationship with God. Sometimes I can't do more than be aware and that is a beginning because it keeps me from fooling myself.

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I'm reading a recent book on Julian of Norwich. The author (a woman) has so far focused on Julian's message that God is Love, all the time, everywhere, for everyone. I have to remind myself sometimes that "false prophets" are likely to miss that point. When they preach a gospel of hate, it's probably not from God.

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My sister's ex-husband died last Sunday; my sister's birthday was yesterday. I fell on the concrete outside of her apartment bldg. and my Lifeline went off. The dispatcher wanted to send an ambulance. I was able to get up, but I had trauma, mostly to my right knee. My great-niece, who is my sister's caretaker, bandaged me up when I got inside their apartment; The funeral is this Saturday! WHEW!!!

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The past few months have been filled with an awareness of my age because I have experienced a surge in funerals and hospital and nursing home visits. Most of my time seems to be spent visiting friends who are facing death or other illnesses. One friend from my book club is bravely fighting brain cancer. Another old friend from church is Deacon Jerry, a Benedictine Oblate from Conception Abbey and former deacon at my church. He is in a palliative care unit now facing inoperable cancer. My prayer list grows with my various community members from church, WSHS, and Oblate groups and others, needing prayers for healing. It is a reminder that life is a journey and there is an end here on earth of each of our journey's. But I feel so grateful and blessed to be able to visit these wonderful people who are facing adversity so bravely. It's hard in one way but a blessing in another which doesn't seem to make sense but it's what I am experiencing. That is my ministry right now! Being faithful to these visits.

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I enjoyed writing the article for the Bulletin. The gift of knowledge is one that I have often thought about, especially in seeing all the online religious sites. So many claiming they are the only ones who are correct. Some claim to be prophets and yet their "words from God" seem to have missed the mark.



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

## The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: A Summary

*By*

Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS



Such a year it has been! The presentation of each of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit as presented at Pentecost has been informative, something to look forward to each month. I began to wonder early in the process if those specific gifts were what was perceived as most needed at that time and in that place. And then, there were all those other gifts provided in various places, to various persons, in various quantities. I have taken away new knowledge from this study, some from our community's members and some from my further research. These are some of the ideas that caught my attention.

Let's start with Sr. LaVerne Peter's quote from Henri Nouwen. "...[W]e are alive not for ourselves but for one another."

It is said the supernatural gifts are attributed to God, given by the Holy Spirit to each of us, to be developed and turned into behavior as service to others. To "us" is exclusively to believers in Christ. "Are 'others' who are not avowed Christians to benefit or not to benefit?" I asked myself. I was pleased to find that there are examples in Scripture of unbelievers operating in supernatural displays of power. So there is common grace at work among those who do not know Christ. (Dr. Sam Storms) Phew!

"Then, what is a natural talent?" was my next question. Aha! This time an answer. A genetic ability or interest with which we are born. These can be developed by gaining knowledge and/or by practice, or ignored. (See how I can easily go down rabbit holes when I pursue a topic!)

I enjoyed the discussion about the "magical" to some, spiritual to others, number seven as described by St. Thomas Aquinas and shared with us by The Rev. Canon Harry Firth. Seen by Aquinas as philosophical wholeness I was off again. Besides seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (several times), there are 7 days included in the completion of heaven and earth and a rest afterward; there are 7 days in a week, including a day of rest; there were seven statements Jesus spoke in agony from the cross; 7 petitions in the Lord's Prayer...and it goes on!

I loved that The Rev. Canon also brought us the name of Sofia, a personification of Wisdom. So comforting to have feminine spirituality considered. I was not so comforted to learn that some churches still have major disagreements about which of the Spirit's gifts can be received by women and if they might receive them when and where are they allowed to use them. May we be examples of God's love and use for all.

Br. David spoke of an inner light from the Holy Spirit that we may know ourselves better and further enable us to share our knowledge and understanding with others. My gaining these wisdoms is always in process. I am open to listening to/reading different strains of thought. This year's study has been another journey as I have looked more deeply into my own gifts of teaching, encouraging, accepting reality, and accepting people as they are. I am constantly trying to improve my own self-control. Sr. Agnes reminded me to continue dropping ego in order to be of greater service. May my words come from the heart and not from a controlled mind.

### **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. Janeen writes: "Then," what is a natural talent?" was my next question. Aha! This time an answer. A genetic ability or interest with which we are born."

What do you think your natural talent is?

2. What gifts of the Holy Spirit do you think you have been given? How do you practice them?

3. What gifts of the Holy Spirit do you wish you had and for what purpose?