

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY
December 2022

Bulletin Cover - Flowers by Sister Deborah, WSHS

I thought it fitting to see a bouquet of red and white carnations for our Anniversary Bulletin Cover. As I arranged them, I could not help but see all the different shapes, sizes and heights. Some are in full bloom, some just budding but all contribute to the overall picture. That is how I see our Community, everyone contributes in their own way and all are embraced in the beauty of our Community, which is still becoming what God wants it to be after 50 years. It will be exciting to see how the Holy Spirit continues to bind us together in love.

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 srwendysamuel@gmail.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: srwendysamuel@gmail.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, www.workerbrothers.org

THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

December 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

December 10, 2022

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

In-person Corporate Communion

Carthage, Missouri	Sr. Barbara Veronica, WSHS	10:00 AM CT
Pleasant Hill, Tennessee	Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS	TBD

REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES

December 10

2023

**January 28 • February 25 • March 25 • April 29 • May 20 • June 24 • July 22 • August 26
September 23 • October 28 • November 18 • December 16**

WORKER SISTERS/WORKER BROTHERS RETREAT

April 27-30, 2023

Compassion

Mercy Center, St. Louis, MO

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**

**The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit
Anniversary of our Founding**

In December we celebrate the **50th Anniversary of the founding of Workers Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.**

For those who are alone, please read this Service of Recommitment in a quiet place where you can take time to offer thanksgiving for this special Community to which we belong.

As we prepare to renew our commitment to our Community, let us take a moment to reflect on what our commitment is.

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit

The Worker Life Commitment (This includes Sisters and Brothers) from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service

I commit myself for life to a covenant relationship with God through the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit. I hold as essential to our Rule, Mission, and Community Life, our fourfold commitment. I therefore dedicate myself to Jesus Christ, to the Fruit of the Spirit, to Mission and to Ministry.

From the Table of Contents of the Rule of Life for Lay Workers

- Daily Personal Prayer
- Daily Communal Prayer
- Daily Reading of the Sacred Scriptures
- Daily Participation in an Act of the Fruit of the Spirit
- Receive Communion Weekly (if available)
- Monthly Communication with the Community by Letter
- Monthly Financial Contribution to the Community

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit

The Companion Life Commitment from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service

A Companion is a person under a Rule of Life who will

- Pray daily for The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer special intention for the Community at a weekly Eucharist or Corporate Worship.
- Keep informed about the growth and development of the Community.
- Send a yearly letter on the Feast of Pentecost to the Companion Coordinator.
- Make a yearly contribution to the Community.
- Cultivate a continuing awareness of their relationship with God which extends to the nurture of body, mind and spirit.

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit

*Although **WSHS Friends** do not make a life commitment, we want to remember their role in WSHS and thank them for their ongoing prayers for the Community.*

A Friend is a person who:

- Is interested in the development and growth of Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.
- Is committed to praying for the Community.
- Is on a personal pilgrimage.
- Desires to learn more from the life journeys of others.
- Wishes to receive the thoughts, prayers and caring concerns of this Community.
- Makes an annual contribution.
- Receives and wears the Community pin.

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit Annual Renewal of Commitment

OFFICIANT:

In recognition that:

December 1972 is the anniversary of the founding of The Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit and December 1979 is the beginning of The Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit, would you now reaffirm your commitment in this Community?

COMMUNITY:

Recognizing the continuing presence of God in the process of my spiritual growth, and honoring my commitment which I made for life, I pause to reflect upon its meaning and seek revitalization in living it out.

I will continue to be faithful and obedient to my Rule of Life.
I will continue to reflect on my personal and spiritual growth.
I will continue to encourage and support the members of the Community and our leadership.
I will endeavor to continue active participation in the life of the church and represent Jesus Christ as his servant in a caring compassionate manner in this suffering world.

OFFICIANT: Would you now repeat the Covenant of our Community?

COMMUNITY:

We, the Community of the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit, in adoration of God and in thanksgiving for God's protective love for us do covenant faithfully to trust in God's unconditional grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As we participate in Jesus Christ's vision of unity, may we become his holy people, respond as we are called by the promptings of the Holy Spirit to show forth fruit, and, in obedience to His command, go forth into the world.

OFFICIANT:

May Almighty God, who has called you to serve in this holy life, give you power to fulfill your commitment through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

December 2022



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FROM YOUR DIRECTORS
UPDATES TO THE WSHS/WBHS CHAPER

We thank the following members who have faithfully completed their terms on Chapter in December 2023.

- Sr. Barbara Veronica
- Sr. Christine
- Sr. Diane Richard
- Sr. Dorothy Cecilia
- Sr. Helen Joseph
- Sr. Pam Raphael
- Br. Raymond Gregory
- Ted Wilson, WBHS

Here is an updated list of WSHS/WBHS members who will serve on Chapter. New members have an * after their name; their 3-year terms start in January 2023. We also welcome Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley, as the new Coordinator of Companions & Friends.

- Sr. LaVerne Peter – Prioress
- Sr. Wendy Samuel – Canadian Director
- Kaelynn Judd, WSHS* – Worker Representative
- Sr. Catherine Marie* – Central Provincial
- Sr. Deborah* – Eastern Provincial
- Sr. Kathleen Rachel* – American Director
- Sr. Nancy Clare – Director of Formation
- Sr. Shirley Evangeline* – Western Provincial
- Br. David* – Brother Representative
- Br. Peter Nicholas* – Brother Representative
- Sr. Carol Matthew – Chapter Emeritus
- Sr. Nancy Teresa – Chapter Emeritus
- Sr. Wendy Martha – Chapter Emeritus
- Sr. Jacquie Elizabeth – Chapter Emeritus


COMING SOON! WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Early in the new year, a survey will be sent to all members of our Community requesting your opinions and/or comments on the Worker Sisters/Brothers of the Holy Spirit and your journey with us. The survey is completely confidential and anonymous. We ask that you answer all questions honestly and feel free to add any comments or suggestions you may have that you feel will help the WSHS/WBHS continue to grow.

2022 has been a year of celebration of the 50 years since Sr. Angela's vision came into being and we pray that the next 50 years will carry us forward, following in her footsteps and in the path that God has called us to journey together. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

May God's will and Sr. Angela's vision go before us and continue to bless our time together.

Sr. LaVerne, Sr. Christine and Sr. Wendy Samuel

OUR MONTHLY REGIONAL ZOOM GATHERINGS – JOIN US!

About 3 years ago I had never heard about ZOOM. Then the pandemic hit and we were isolated. WSHS let me know about a Regional ZOOM meeting and I did not know how to do that. So I asked someone who knew about ZOOM and learned how easy it is to get 'online'. The WSHS meetings I have attended have kept me in touch with some of our Community. I have learned how people are doing, their prayer requests, their physical situations. Without ZOOM I would never have had the opportunity to 'keep in touch'. There is also a definite sense of prayer during our ZOOM gatherings. We are staying closer than we would have been able to. I highly recommend the ZOOM Regional Gatherings to everyone in our Community. If you want to receive a ZOOM invite, please call or email the Zoom Host in your time zone, listed under the Regional Gathering section of the Bulletin.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the entire Community, we want to thank Sr. Charlotte Mary for her years of faithful, compassionate, and loving care in sending cards to the families of the deceased members of our WSHS/WBHS Community. These members are in our Communion of Saints.

Sr. Jane Bartimaeus reflects the Community's gratitude as she writes:

Dear Sister Charlotte Mary,

How do we begin to thank you for all the lovely Remembrance cards you have sent us for more than twenty-five years to mark the date of a loved ones passing, or a special occasion to be remembered?

I probably have received more of your cards over the years than any other member as there were four Worker Sisters in my family and you never failed to remind us through your cards that we were not alone in our grief or in our celebrations.

We are blessed by your ministry, encouraged by your loyalty to your task, and grateful for all you have done for Community over the years.

With much love from all,
Sister Jane Bartimaeus



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I remember the Retreat with the theme “Gifts of the Spirit”. We were each given a small yellow cutout of a flame, on which was written one of the gifts. Sr. Shirley Evangeline’s article captured me from the first sentence: “How can I, a mere mortal ...” That’s a question I’ve asked myself. The quote from her granddaughter Eva answers that question. I’ve already considered and made an effort to practice the goals “listen without interrupting,” “speak without accusing,” “answer without arguing,” and “give without sparing.”

I am challenged by several of the following admonitions. “Pray without ceasing.” I know without doubt that God is always with me, but I don’t always talk to God. That ties in with “Trust without wandering.” God knows how much I wander in my daily distractions! Yes, wandering away from God. “Enjoy without complaint?” Guilty! The perfectionist in me can always spot imperfections, and I want to move past that to simple enjoyment without critique. And finally is “Promise without forgetting.” When I make a promise, I do usually keep it, but I can think of times I did forget and still regret it now, decades later. Thank God that God never forgets a promise!

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 and 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.

“Fear” perhaps could be better translated as “Respect”. A child would respect a grandparent, but would be a little fearful, too, because the grandparent’s actions are unpredictable. And a grandparent’s words and acts have a lot of weight. We want God’s approval, as a child wants a grandparent’s approval and support.

If He is the source of grace and mercy, I don’t think being afraid all the time is the best idea. Though His power is limitless is there much to be fearful about? I prefer to consider “all his benefits” (Ps 103).

I sometimes question my faith. But then I get stubborn. I may not know how well I believe, but I am “faithful” and so I stick to my position as a believer.

I had an experience at church this past Sunday that fit a few of the “10 Ways to Love”: Listen without interrupting; speak without accusing; and answer without arguing. A friend at church was trying to triangulate me into agreeing with her about some of the people (at the church) she doesn’t like! I tried not to argue with her, but I told her that she was entitled to her opinion. Nobody can like everybody or have a close relationship with everybody. I told her that the people she was talking about were FRIENDS OF MINE and that I did not want to talk about them.

A big topic this month, well covered by Br. David, was on knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge that comes from knowing that God is good. That God can be trusted. God is actively involved in my life.

This is the kind of knowledge and wisdom that can be life affirming when shared by example or word with others.

Br. David makes a good point about wisdom informing knowledge. I may know something that might help another but where and when and how to share this knowledge is another step and must be discerned carefully.

I am very aware that knowledge in the world can be divisive and confusing and not always life affirming, especially if it is not accompanied by the wisdom that comes from reflecting on our life experiences and mediated by love. Being human, I am not always motivated by love but sometimes by using knowledge to prove my point, to give advice, to prove that I am more knowledgeable than I really am. That being said, knowledge and wisdom that comes from time spent with a loving God is more apt to be used sparingly and with great care, realizing that the relationship is more important at times, than any knowledge revealed. It's a case of coming from a deep place of caring for the other.