

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**COMPASSION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**  
**April 2023**

**Bulletin Cover - Photo from Freebibleimages.com**

The story of Ruth and Naomi. Ruth's compassion for Naomi led her to great sacrifice.

**Community Communication Contacts:**

**Prayer Requests and News Notes for the monthly Bulletin** - email Br. Ephrem, etcocles148@gmail.com or see green sheets for his mailing address.

**Changes of address, phone numbers, email addresses** - email Sr. Shirley Evangeline at sr.shirleyevangelinpace@gmail.com or Sr. Christine at casturges@gmail.com or see green sheets for mailing addresses.

**Urgent Community Prayer Requests for email distribution** – email or call Sr. LaVerne Peter (callaghgan@aol.com), Sr. Kathleen Rachel (srkathleenrachel@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. Shirley Evangeline, 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)**

**THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**Web Addresses: [workersisters.org](http://workersisters.org) [workerbrothers.org](http://workerbrothers.org)**

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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
REGIONAL GATHERINGS  
April 2023**

**Retreat 2023 will be in progress April 27-30, 2023.  
Watch for email updates on which sessions you may view online.**

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**

**See Dates Below**

Eastern Regional USA & Southern Regional USA	Br. David, WBHS, brdavidwbhs1@gmail.com	12:30 PM ET
Central Regional USA	Sr. Catherine Marie, WSHS, sr.catherine.marie@gmail.com	2:00 PM CT
Western Regional USA	Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS, wguyton17@gmail.com	10:00 AM MT

**In-person Corporate Communion**

Pleasant Hill, Tennessee	Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS	TBD
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**REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES**

**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**



## COMMUNITY CHANGES

*Please make the following alterations to your Green Sheets:*

### NEW WORKER APPLICANT – Sara Hornor



Sara Elizabeth Hornor  
611 El Vedado  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405  
Phone: 561-389-5667  
Email: sarahornor@yahoo.com  
Birthday: March 3

Sara is a semi-retired Geriatric Case Manager. She was born in Pennsylvania and has lived in Florida since 1970. She and her partner, James Roberts, have one grown daughter, Elizabeth, who lives in Tennessee. She has been active in the Episcopal Church for many years. She is now a member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Palm Beach and finds special joy in her involvement with the Pastoral Care team and a Eucharistic Minister and Visitor. She likes to walk, bead, and loves antiquing. Her hobbies include reading, knitting, and needlepoint. We look forward to welcoming Sara at our 2023 Retreat in St. Louis!

### NEW FRIEND APPLICANT – Annie Maud



Annie Maud  
38140 S. Granite Crest Drive  
Tucson, AZ 85739  
Phone: 520-235-2299  
Email: anniem3232@gmail.com  
Birthday: June 6

Annie was introduced to the Community by her good friend, Ginny Berkeley, Novice. Annie is a long-time member of St. Jude's Anglican Church, Tucson, Arizona. A retired English teacher, she was previously involved as a tennis coach, musical director, nature club officer and been on the library board. For fun she enjoys reading and writing (especially poetry), gardening & walking. Annie and Ginny will be driving to Retreat this April. She will be admitted as a Friend of WSHS/WBHS. We look forward to welcoming Annie at our 2023 Retreat in St. Louis!

## NEW FRIEND APPLICANT



Patricia Cashman  
 1141 Snyder Road, Apt B 38  
 Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446  
 Phone: 267-366-8692  
 Email: patcashman2010@gmail.com  
 Birthday: May 16

Patricia is semi-retired; working as a Mental Health Crisis Worker and engages in a life of prayer, work and study. She has had two careers: as a psychiatric registered nurse and later as an ordained priest at the Church of The Advocate in Philadelphia. She is also the mother of Rachael, Mary and Gabriel and grandmother of four. She plays piano and, for fun, she is learning to paint abstract art. In January 2023 she visited Assisi and the trip awakened longings for religious community. She Googled Episcopal/ Benedictine communities and discovered WSHS. Patricia will be at Retreat 2023 and she will be admitted as a Friend of WSHS/WBHS. We look forward to welcoming Patricia at our 2023 Retreat in St. Louis!

## NEW EMAIL for PRAYER REQUESTS

Please REMEMBER, Br. Ephrem has a new email address: eteocles148@gmail.com. Please send him your prayer requests for the next Bulletin to this email. Delete the old one. Thank you!



## FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

**IMPORTANT: HOWARD MC CLENDON, COMPANION, NEEDS YOUR RETREAT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES NOW. This includes car or airplane.**

Please call (601-467-7628) or  
 Email him at hmclndn@gmail.com

Please make sure all information about your travel plans (car or plane, arrival day, approximate time as well as your departure time) gets to Howard. For those who are flying, Howard will attempt to help you “buddy up” with others who may arrive or depart from the airport at similar times and hopefully save you money on the shuttle fare.

**RETREAT 2023 LOCATION:**  
**Mercy Center – Phone 314.966.4686**  
**2039 North Geyer Road**  
**St. Louis, MO 63131-3399**

**FOR THOSE NOT ATTENDING RETREAT IN-PERSON OR ONLINE**

Please continue to pray during the days from April 27-30 for safe travel, protection, wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for those of us at Retreat. Know that those of us at Retreat will be praying for you during this time.

**SPIRITUAL SHARING**

There is a challenge today of “compassion fatigue.” I was reminded of that old tale of a man saving starfish on a beach. He was asked just what he hoped to accomplish as the beach was full of dying starfish who had been beached and he couldn’t possibly save them all. He replied “I don’t know if I make a difference to all but I sure made a difference to this starfish that I am now returning to the water.” This is an important lesson for me. I can’t help in all situations, or in most situations but I have daily opportunities to stifle my own self-interest and to push myself to Christ’s next level for me so that I am more apt to speak that loving word, offer a resource, offer a listening ear and the ministry of just presence to those in pain. I am more apt to take that next step and help that one soul before me. And that is enough.

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Last week, we were reading from Chapters 3 and 4 of Hebrews. There are a number of references to “rest” in those passages. The rebellious Israelites were told: “They shall not enter my rest.” But the writer of Hebrews says: “A sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God’s rest also cease from their labors as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest . . .” Is God telling me it is time to think seriously about retirement? That “rest” often looks pretty good.

\*\*\*\*\*

The author of the February Bulletin article is correct - compassion living encompasses everything, large or small, with great love. I remember Mother Teresa’s saying, “We might not be able to do great things but we can do small things with great love.” I find it comforting now that I am not able to accomplish much and I am slow! Praise be to God.

\*\*\*\*\*

Absolutely, walking with someone is often the very best thing to do. Not offering advice is so wise. I guess we all just want someone to listen sometimes. I think if we can get something out by speaking it, we can then have a look more closely at what is going on inside. And, as listeners, protecting ourselves is important too - not getting into the other person’s stuff!

\*\*\*\*\*

Compassion is more than empathy though empathy is a part of compassion. The biggest difference is action. Empathy is the feeling and understanding of the suffering of others, whereas, compassion is an emotional response to empathy or sympathy and creates a desire to help, to become active in the situation.

\*\*\*\*\*

During my prayer time one day early in the morning last week, I became aware that all was well, and that like the poem by Robert Browning, "All's right with the world." As I experienced this sense of wholeness, I became aware that I am the soul mate I have longed for all my life. This was a remarkable gift. I realized that many of the challenges in my life are not calls for me to beg God for answers but rather to rest in God's love and trust in the goodness I have experienced. Later that same morning my brother (who knew nothing of this) sent this quote to me, "Love is between you and you. It is an experience of oneself in oneself. Your soul mate is your own soul."

\*\*\*\*\*

Someone "gets me." They see me and they understand. Jesus saw me and had compassion on me. When we are moved by compassion, we are doing God's will.

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Oh what a good article! Thank you for Peter Brooks! And the picture on the front cover (to me) says it all ... a huge, genuine hug! (I am a hugger. The pandemic and social distancing was not a comfortable time for me because of my nature to reach out to another, to hug, to be close.)

\*\*\*\*\*

With compassion my husband forgave me. Bigger than that he never spoke of it again. Once I brought it up he said the account had been paid and was closed. The end. God does the same for us.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have experienced compassion when I was temporarily homeless. I see small things happening all around me. Today, as I was getting on an elevator at my building, I saw an elderly lady pushing another elderly lady in her wheelchair. They were heading for the elevator. After they got off, someone else in the elevator said that the ladies are sisters. She said [about the one helping], "She takes such good care of her sister!"

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Last week I had bad stomach flu. Childcare continues in spite of whether we are sick or they are sick. A sweet child came into my room, gently touched me and gave me flowers. She'll be 5 soon, but she has the compassion gene.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am always busy and realized during this last two months I need to listen. I need to stop during my day, take a time out, and just rest quietly for five to 10 minutes clearing my mind. It is often difficult to do, but listening has brought more peace and I often feel Christ's presence in the room. Sometimes I even find all of a sudden I know what I need to do, to say or even who to check on that I have not spoken to for a while. The more I listen to others I realize how many do not have someone to listen. Listening to a friend can help them consider or even sort out the problems they are encountering.

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I believe that "compassion" is also the feeling of empathy towards a person or anything living without feeling superior to that person that needs help. We could all be in the same situation as the one who needs love and help. Compassion involves listening to a person who is trying to apologize for a hurtful thing done or said, and for the apology to be accepted! Forgiveness!



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

**Compassion in the New Testament**  
**The Book of Ruth**  
 by Ted Wilson, WBHS

*“Do not urge me to leave you,  
 to turn back and not follow you.  
 For wherever you go, I will go;  
 Wherever you lodge, I will lodge;  
 Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.  
 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.  
 Thus and more may the Lord do to me if anything but death parts me from you.”*  
 (Ruth 1: 16—17)

Surely the above verses from the Book of Ruth are the best known quote from this very short (only four chapters) Old Testament book. Indeed, it is the Old Testament’s shortest book, and the only Hebrew bible book named after a convert to Judaism, namely Ruth, the Moabite. Certainly, these words spoken by Ruth to her mother-in-law, Naomi, are filled with compassion, loving kindness, and loyalty. This declaration happens when Naomi urges Ruth, and Ruth’s Moabite sister-in-law, Orpah, to return to Moab to find suitable Moabite husbands. This is after Naomi’s sons, Mahlon (Ruth’s husband) and Chilion (Orpah’s husband) have died and left Ruth and Orpah widowed. Orpah returns to Moab to find another husband, but Ruth refuses to abandon her mother-in-law, even though her chances (as a despised foreigner, from an enemy nation — Moab) of marrying someone from Judah are slim to none. So, by her loyalty, she is willing to make a great sacrifice.

Why had observant Jews like Mahlon and Chilion married Moabite women? The reason was that there had been a severe famine in Judah, near Bethlehem, and as a result, Bethlehemites Naomi, her husband, Elimelech; and their sons, Mahlon and Chilion crossed over the border into Moab, where there was plenty of food to eat. They stayed there for 10 years. The sons found Moabite wives — Ruth and Orpah; however, tragedy visited them. Soon after arriving in Moab, Elimelech died and then Mahlon and Chilion died. So, surviving this sadness were three widows: Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah.

After the 10 years in Moab, news came that the famine in Judah had passed, so Naomi decided to return home. She had, at first, brought Ruth and Orpah with her, but then, having thought better of it, implored her two daughters-in-law to go back to Moab. Orpah did as her mother-in-law implored her to do, but Ruth said to Naomi, “No, I’m going to stick with you. Don’t ask me to do otherwise.”

Further into the book of Ruth, Naomi and Ruth do return to Judah since the famine had run its course, but they are now poor widows with no means of support. It is barley-harvesting time, and Naomi hears

that one of her relatives, Boaz, a rich landowner, is in the midst of harvesting barley from his fields. She suggests that Ruth go and glean barley from this relative's fields. Gleaning meant to follow the harvesters and pick up that which had fallen out of the gatherers' baskets. So, at Naomi's suggestion, Ruth does just that. She meets Boaz in his barley field, and he makes sure that she can glean as much grain as she can, without being bothered by any male employees intent on taking advantage of her.

At this point, something rather interesting can be added. It's a law found in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 19, Verse 9, that says: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest." Presumably, this law existed so that poor people like Naomi and Ruth could gather up food for themselves and thus not die of hunger. So, since Boaz was an observant Jew, and a farmer, he must have followed this law and that's how Ruth was able to gather grain for Naomi and her to eat.

As previously mentioned, Boaz meets Ruth. Word of her generosity towards Naomi must have spread far and wide, because he knows about her kindness and lets her know what a good reputation she earned for herself.

Ruth goes back to Naomi with an abundance of grain from Boaz's fields and Naomi thinks to herself, "Oh, my goodness! Let's work on getting Ruth and Boaz together as husband and wife. That way neither one of us will have to continue to live in abject poverty, and we can be supported by his kindness and generosity for the rest of our lives." (That's not in the Bible, just a guess as to what might have been going through Naomi's mind.)

Naomi tells Ruth to bathe and put on her best clothes, and astonishingly enough, to lie next to Boaz at night on the threshing floor, after he has spent many hours in his fields, working hard to gather in the harvest. It sounds rather dicey, doesn't it? But that is, in fact, what Ruth does. She goes and lies right next to Boaz. He is awakened in the middle of the night, notices Ruth sleeping at his feet, and eventually recognizes her from their previous meeting in the barley field. He says to Ruth that he knows about her plan to marry him, but that there is a closer relative than he is to Naomi's husband, Elimelech, and that this closer relative should be allowed to take Ruth as his wife before Boaz has a chance to take Ruth in marriage.

So, the next day, a gathering of several men come to the town square to witness this official exchange, namely, this unnamed closer relative taking Elimelech's land and in addition, Elimelech's daughter-in-law, Ruth, as a wife. Well, the unnamed closer relative would have said yes to the land, but since Ruth was also part of the bargain, he said no. So, Boaz was free to marry Ruth and he did so. They had a son named Obed and two generations later came King David of Israel, and of course, many generations after David, came our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So, this poor, despised foreigner, Ruth, was in the family line of our Messiah. Appropriate enough for a man who loved to break bread with sinners, outcasts, and foreigners.

Let me emphasize the compassionate nature of so much of this Old Testament book. There is a word in ancient Hebrew. In a transliteration, this word is "Hesed." It means loving kindness. When you say

it out loud, the “h” sounds like the “ch” in “chutzpah,” a Yiddish word meaning bold effrontery, as in, “You had a lot of chutzpah to ask that umpire if he needed glasses.” The word “Hesed” appears three times in the Book of Ruth: Ruth 1:8, Ruth 2:20, and Ruth 3:10.

*This is Ruth 1: 8*

“Go back each of you (Ruth and Orpah) to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead (their husbands and their father-in-law) and with me (Naomi).”

*This is Ruth 2:20*

“Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law (Ruth), ‘Blessed be he (Boaz) by the Lord, whose (the Lord’s) kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead.’”

*This is Ruth 3:10*

“He (Boaz) said, ‘May you (Ruth) be blessed by the Lord, my daughter (Ruth); this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.’”

Each of these passages note that God’s kindness, his loving kindness is at work in this story. If anyone in all of creation could be aptly described as having “Hesed,” surely it would be God, Creator of the universe, and it appears that Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz did a good job of reflecting that loving kindness in their actions.

### 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.*

Ted recounts the story of Ruth and Naomi while illustrating that it is a story filled with compassionate acts.

1. Are you able to place yourself in the shoes of Naomi? Imagine the loving compassion she shows to both Ruth and Orpah. Take a few moments to reflect on how you would have acted had you been Naomi.
2. Place yourself in Ruth’s situation and reflect on what she was willing to give up out of her loving and compassionate loyalty to Naomi. She obviously loved Naomi dearly so reflect on her actions taken out of that love. True compassion often means taking some action to support another; to act on the empathy you may feel. What would you have done in her place?
3. Boaz, a genuinely compassionate and obedient Jewish man who unlike others, follows both the letter and spirit of the Jewish Law, responding in the spirit of Hesed. Reflect on how completely Boaz followed his tradition, in his honorable treatment of Ruth. Reflect on times when you did the right thing. What prompted your response, a wholehearted response to the love of God, a sense of duty, or somewhere in between?
4. Ted quotes from the Book of Leviticus:19.9 “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest.” Reflect on the compassionate love behind this law. How would our culture be more compassionate if we followed the “spirit” behind some of our laws intended to help others?

THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SERVICE OF ADMISSION  
FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

ADMISSION OF LAY WORKER



MELANIE TOBOYEK

ADMISSION OF FRIEND



ANNIE MAUD

ADMISSION OF FRIEND



PATRICIA CASHMAN

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED