

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**THE GIFT OF WISDOM**  
**March 2022**

**Bulletin Cover**

Statue of Julian of Norwich by David Holgate, west front, Norwich Cathedral, United Kingdom

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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 –**

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>	
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
REGIONAL GATHERINGS  
March 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.

<u>Regional Zoom Gatherings</u>		<u>March 26th</u>
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 AZ time

<u>In-person Corporate Communion</u>		
Carthage, Missouri	Sr. Barbara Veronica, WSHS	TBD
Pleasant Hill, Tennessee	Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS	TBD

REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES

March 26 • April 23 or 30 • May 21 • June 25 • July 23 • August 27  
September 24 • October 22 • November 19 • December 10

**50th ANNIVERSARY RETREAT**  
**April 28-30, 2022**  
***Our Journey: Looking Back, At the Present and to the Future. Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit***  
**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**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 continue to pray for the safety of our loved ones in Haiti during this time of turmoil with the Pandemic. God protect Br. Frantz Benedict and all his people from harm, especially the small children.

I was in contact with Andrew Moorey at Global Hydration and they are currently out of stock of water tablets. They will not have any for 6 to 8 weeks, but we are placing an order. We must be patient and know that when they do have stock, we will be able to send at least one case a month and sometimes two cases for at least six months. We have funds available to keep tablets on order.

As always, we thank Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley for her continued support in sending the tablets to Haiti when they are available.

Blessing and Stay Safe,  
*Sr. Alexandra Francis*



## FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

**REMEMBER – REGISTER NOW FOR RETREAT 2022**

Our special 50th Anniversary Retreat Brochure has been mailed and/or emailed to you. Remember to sign up by or before April 1. There will be NO Registration fee. Signing up will help us know how many plan to participate. **Please RSVP by or before April 1, 2022!**

Please email or mail the following information to **Sr. Shirley Evangeline**, our 2022 Retreat Director. Her email is: [shirley\\_pace@yahoo.com](mailto:shirley_pace@yahoo.com); her mailing address is: **1009 W. Sunset, Springfield, MO 65807.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ and

“Yes, I plan to attend Retreat 2022”

or

“No, I will be unable to participate this year”

**50th ANNIVERSARY POLO (GOLF) SHIRTS**

We will have a 50th Anniversary Polo (Golf) Shirt available for purchase for all members! **Complete the order form at the end of this brochure and send it with your check, to Sr. Barbara Rebecca by March 15th.** Her mailing address is:

Sr. Barbara Rebecca, WSHS

4285 Burns Line Road

Croswell, MI 48422-9721

Checks should be made out to WSHS/WBHS; put "Clothing" in the memo line.

**BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

30 Day Journey with Julian of Norwich by Carol Howard Merritt

As we enter Lent, this could be a good study to learn more about Julian of Norwich.

Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit by Thomas Keating

Fr. Keating does an excellent job – another good Lenten journey.

Ascending with Ignatius: A 30-Day At-Home Retreat by Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ

**GREEN SHEETS**

The Green Sheets are kept up to date on our website. You can access them from your phone or tablet as well as from a computer.

Go to our website. Use either [www.workersisters.com](http://www.workersisters.com) or [www.workerbrothers.com](http://www.workerbrothers.com). (Both addresses go to the same site.)

On the home page, use the menu to go to "Member Pages." To log in, use the email address [wshs.wbhs@gmail.com](mailto:wshs.wbhs@gmail.com). The password is Angela45.

Please do not change the email or password. They need to stay the same for everyone. As a security measure, the Green Sheets are not downloadable. We don't want our information winding up on some hacker's mailing list. If you need a hard copy, you can print out the individual pages or contact Sr. Kathleen Rachel to have a copy sent to you by snail mail. If you reach her voicemail, please leave a message so she can call you back.

**SPIRITUAL SHARING**

After reading the Bulletin article I ordered a copy of Ascending with Ignatius. It arrived Friday. I've been aware that I'm in need of a spiritual retreat, and I pray that this will be the right one at the right time for me.

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I was aware at our zoom meeting how many are now suffering in various ways; more than in the past. After all we are all aging and living in perilous times. But at the same time, I was aware of a real spiritual maturity. I felt a genuine spirit of gratitude for our blessings, a compassion and love for one another. I sensed a real effort to listen and give each person time to share, and I felt strongly that each person's heart was open to God's beautiful plan for our community, for those present and those to come. I think we all went away feeling supported by one another with a desire to continue this journey. I could imagine Sr. Angela being there with us in spirit and feeling proud of our growth in the Fruit of the Spirit.

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The eye surgery was like a "miracle"! I'm seeing some things now, or better, for the first time in years, including some dirt/spots in the apartment! I had my name taken off the prayer list. Prayers were answered.

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My cluster leader and I discussed a lot of spiritual things today especially the difficulty of keeping on with the world, which is seeming to fall apart around us. Just what does that mean for us spiritually, what spiritual tools can sustain and support us to contemplate reality without becoming too cynical, or angry or discouraged. We discussed all the ways we are called to live in the real world while growing spiritually even amid many challenges.

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My intention for January was "cultivating silence". I did my best to start each day by reading a devotional called "Come Into the Silence" by Thomas Merton. I would read the passage, meditate on it, and then spend time in prayer. I would choose a sentence from the reading to carry with me throughout the day. I would then finish the day in prayer. It was a great way to insert some silence and meditation into the chaos. I hope I am able to maintain the habit throughout the year.

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With much patience (unusual for me) I sought out various possibilities to rent as a new home, always with the prayer, "just let me be where You want me to be." Happily, I was led to a most comfortable abode, one so reasonable I am not having to rush out to look for employment, the blessing of being closer to my family and the gift of a very kind neighbor who just jumps in to shovel all the grand snowfall we have had.



## FORMATION AND TRAINING

## The Gift of Wisdom

By  
Kaelynn Judd, WSHS

*“That our hearts and ears will be open to know your will for all.”*



It was 1349 when the Black Death struck Norwich. Little Julian was about seven years old at the time. She would never know a normal life. Wave after wave of the pandemic would ravage the world during her lifetime. The population of England would be cut in half. The disease was so rampant that proper burials couldn't take place. There was no time for mourning or funerals. The scarred bodies of the dead were unceremoniously stacked in mass graves. A heavy fear loomed over the world.

With no reasonable explanation for what was happening, people grew fearful of one another and of the natural world. Death seemed to be lurking around every corner. It could be hidden in the warm embrace of a friend. It could be waiting for you just outside the door. The mental, spiritual, and physical health of English society deteriorated.

Although Julian was a naturally optimistic woman, she was not immune to exhaustion. After watching countless friends and family members slip away, she knew fatigue intimately. She must have begun to wonder if her fellow theologians were right: Maybe this pandemic *was* some kind of Divine judgment. Perhaps the Flagellants who whipped themselves to earn the mercy of an angry God were onto something. As Julian developed a fever and a headache, I imagine that questioning grew relentless. An overwhelming mixture of shame, doubt, and fear hung heavy on Julian's heart. She knew exactly what her fate would be. *“Sometimes we experience such darkness that we lose all our energy.”* she wrote.

After a few short days of battling the plague, Julian prepared herself for death. She slipped into a coma, and in the fever-induced darkness, received 16 revelations of God's love. In this series of elaborate visions, God assured Julian of His perfect will for the world. He opened her heart and ears to the goodness and joy of life, and encouraged her to lay aside all deprecating thoughts about humanity and fearful ideas about His character.

Upon waking up from her coma, Julian spent the next few years of her life meditating on these visions and internalizing God's love and dream of “wellness” for the world. Empowered by hope, Julian would spend the remaining 40 years of her life living as an anchoress, receiving mass regularly, and acting as a spiritual Mother for the weary souls that found themselves passing by her window.

Although Julian is no longer physically with us, this powerful Saint continues to share God's wisdom with us today. As we find ourselves exhausted by a two-year battle against the coronavirus, Julian assures us that we are deeply loved by God and need not fear Divine judgment. As a compassionate mother, she says to us, "It is God's will that we enjoy our safety and wholeness (rather than experience this life with sorrow and heaviness), and that is why God wants us to be comforted and strengthened, and yes, even laugh, as our souls are occupied by grace. For we are God's joy; in us, God has endless delight; and by God's grace, we shall experience the same happiness."

As our community wrestles with how to live out our *Rule* in a post-pandemic world, I pray that like Julian, God meets us in the darkness. I have faith that we will be able to set down our fear of a wrathful Father and replace it with absolute trust in His goodness. I hope that the wisdom of the Saints never ceases reaching out to us and that "charged with the quality of reverence and loving awe, we turn ourselves with all our might toward action."

God has given the WSHS/WBHS community the passion and the tools for ministering to an aching world. This pandemic has gifted us the opportunity to not only take a creative look at the future, but to also slow down and take stock of the goodness that is all around us. Echoing Julian's words, may we boldly prophesize, "All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well... for there is a Force of Love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go."

### 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. Julian of Norwich is well known to many but there are also those who may not have known her and Kaelynn gives us a wonderful introduction to not only meeting Julian but also getting to know her. If Julian is new to you, you may want to pull up her history on the computer and learn more.
2. In 1349, Julian grew up in a world in which the pandemic known as the Black Death was raging and as we read about it, we are reminded a great deal of what we have lived through and going through today. It is apparent Julian suffered a great deal with her illness and came very close to death. She survived and then spent the rest of her life serving God and others. Has our current pandemic caused you to reach out to others and support them even more?
3. After waking up from her coma, Julian spent the next few years meditating on the visions she had when she was ill. She shares with us through her writing, and we see that although we are "exhausted with our battle against the virus, we are deeply loved by God" and she mentions that "it is God's will that we enjoy our safety and wholeness rather than experience this life with sorrow and heaviness and that is why God wants us to be comforted and strengthened and, yes, even laugh, as our souls are occupied by grace."

As you read that, think about the wisdom and insight Julian is imparting to us. Maybe share some in your journal.

4. Kaelynn concludes with words about that “God has given the WSHS/WBHS Community the passion and the tools for an aching world. This pandemic has gifted us the opportunity to not only take a creative look at the future but also to slow down and to take stock of all the goodness that is all around us.” These are words that open the door as we look at the pandemic that we are all living through. We give thanks to God for the Force of Love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go.” Take time to offer thanksgiving for our journey ahead and hold on to the words “All will be well, and all will be well.”

*Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS*