

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



THE FRUIT OF FAITH
August 2024

Bulletin Cover - Retreat Photo 2024 - The Fruit of The Spirit

If anyone in the Community would like to receive any of the photos by email that are in the Bulletin this month please let Sr. Deborah know and she will email to you. strdeb555@gmail.com

Community Communication Contacts:

Prayer Requests and News Notes for the monthly Bulletin - email Erin Diericx, WSHS, emdeerx@gmail.com, or see green sheets for her 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. 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, www.workerbrothers.org

Web Addresses: workersisters.org workerbrothers.org	
THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
Trina Avedisian, Friend, WSHS	Layout & Design WSHS/WBHS Bulletin
Sr. Christine, WSHS	Editor
Sr. Shirley Evangeline, WSHS	Proof Reader
Contributing Staff	
Sr. Kathleen Rachel, WSHS	Co-Director
Sr. Deborah, WSHS	Co-Director
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS
August 2024**

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

August 24, 2024

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 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 AZ Time
(11AM MT, Noon CT, 1PM ET) |

In-person Corporate Communion

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Pleasant Hill, Tennessee | Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS | TBD |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----|

REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES

**August 24 • September 28
October 26 • November 16* • December 14***
** Date changed to 3rd Saturday due to the holiday*

NEXT YEAR'S RETREAT DATES
April 24th - 27th, 2025

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:

Updates for your Green Sheets:**Sr. Charlotte Mary has a new address:**

17900 County Road 5
Berthoud, CO 80513

Sr. Jacquie Elizabeth has a new address:

Villa St. Francis, Room 303
16600 W. 126th Street
Olathe, Kansas 66062

Sr. Sharron Magdalen has a new email:

sharronswanberg@gmail.com

Barbara Richards, WSHS has a new address:

Delmar Gardens of Lenexa
9701 Monrovia, Room 910
Lenexa, KS 66215

Janine Robbins, WSHS has a new address, phone number and email:

502 Parkdale St. #2
Cuba, MO 65453
Cell #: 573-512-2148
janinedawn6@gmail.com

Pam Winn, WSHS - Her email address is:

hugsfrompam@comcast.net

Reminder to Sisters, Brothers and Workers

1. Please email your entire “Yellow” letter to your Cluster Leader including Prayer Requests, Recommendations and News Notes.
2. Email a copy of only your Prayer Requests, Thanksgivings and News Notes to:
Erin Diericx, WSHS emdeerx@gmail.com
Her mailing address is: 1204 North Prospect Avenue, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Reminder to Companions and Friends

Send your responses to the Friends and Companions Corner to:
Marya Pohlmeier, Companion, maryalovestravel@gmail.com
Her mailing address is:
1677 Mount Vernon Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303

**COMPANIONS AND FRIENDS CORNER**

Let us, Companions and Friends, pray for our Community.

Holy Spirit, may your Breath be breathed into every member of The Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit and The Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit.

How did you spend July 11 to connect with St. Benedict?

I found myself driving in my home state of Nebraska visiting my nephews and niece scattered across 200 miles. I had previously decided to try to “listen with the ear of my heart” in whatever way the day would reveal itself. Instead of taking a long walk I had previously thought about, I ended up driving many miles each day. This is corn and soybean country and I love driving through those crops. I know I’m home where I grew up and enjoying every moment unlike some of my friends who say “how boring is that drive!!!” Not for me.

This trip, unlike many of my previous annual trips, found Nebraska vibrantly green and not dried up and struggling to get to harvest. They had had enough rain and the crops in the dry land farming areas showed it. The irrigated farm areas have always looked green and vibrant, but this year even the dry land farms looked fabulous. It was going to be a good year.

That day I drove from the town of Lawrence to Geneva to squeeze in a visit with some previous students from way back in the 1970's that I had taught. It was 52 miles of pure farmland. I searched the radio for something to listen to, but pretty much the only thing I could find was Country Music! I'm not a fan of country music but settled on one that seemed to have more ballads! Well, maybe I will be able to "listen with the ear of my heart" somehow. Sure enough, you never know when God breaks in.

All of a sudden, the landscape turned from corn that had recently been tall, tasseling, setting on ears, along with fields of soybeans that were luscious and generously leafing out to something shockingly bare. For the next six miles, the corn fields were reduced to bare stalks with leaves stripped off, tassels gone, ears battered. The soybean fields were reduced to the main stalk standing about eight inches with nothing on it, completely bare of leaves and no beans setting on. A vicious hail storm had obviously ripped these fields and this harvest to zero harvest. As the miles went on and my heart dropped for those farmers, one of the few ballads I knew came on the radio. "The Gambler."

Every gambler knows
That the secret to survivin'
Is knowin' what to throw away
And knowin' what to keep

Somehow that was the atmosphere I felt those farmers were going through.

You've got to know when to hold 'em
Know when to fold 'em
Know when to walk away
And know when to run
You never count your money
When you're sittin' at the table
There'll be time enough to countin'
When the dealin's done

Performed by Kenny Rogers. Written by Don Schlitz 1976

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I was brought back to the times when my dad faced these kinds of situations in farming. I was the little girl seeing him shake his head after a hail storm on his crops, a wind storm that took a big building, a creek that overflowed in flood stage wiping out a tractor. My dad never said the words, but he would be at church the next Sunday and living his belief that God was with him through it all. And all will be well.

I have grown through the years to hold on to the last words that Jesus told his disciples before he left them, “Go, I am with you always.” Through all the peaks and valleys life brings me.

This may not make a lot of sense to you, but the experience of just a few moments brought together a host of impressions and memories from present to past and back to my present. And Jesus is with me through it all. It was my moment of once more joining Benedict in “listening with the ear of my heart.”

I'd love to receive one paragraph/story/poem/artistic rendering of how you have “listened with the ear of your heart” or how you spent St. Benedict Day. Respond to any other questions I've posed in the last year.



SPIRITUAL SHARING

Our time living is brief, especially in the scheme of things. Time becomes more precious. When you take time, spend time, and be cognizant of time with yourself or others you find yourself being gentler.

To share love, you must have and know love. This is what I hear Sr. Jane Bartimaeus saying. Gratitude for what we have gives us the resources to share the fruits of the spirit. For me, quietness is the multiplier for gentleness. All those who I see the gentle fruit of the spirit shining have a quietness about them. It's that quietness that becomes the fertile ground for the fruit of the spirit gentleness growing.

It is through the fruit of gentleness we expose and let go of hurt feelings. Only through gentleness can we do this.

Gratefulness always reminds me of Sr. Ruby Naomi. Close to the end of her life with us,

I received an email from her. She said “Great news! I am so thankful to God that I have one more red corpuscle today than I did yesterday!!”

I try to meet people where they are and not where I think they are or should be. I think of gentleness, of being at peace, even when delivering a difficult word. I think of Sister Pam Raphael when I think of gentleness; she always seems to be at peace.

The way I acknowledge every person (whether I have met them or not) as beloved, treasured, and fragile is by donating blood as frequently as I am able. It costs me nothing but a little time and I even get an iced coffee and a Kind bar in return. I’m not always as grateful as I should be for the life I have been given, but I am always grateful for the chance to share what I have with a person in need.

Many, many years ago I traveled with the Youth Group to Cool to ski. One evening we all shared a verse that is dear to us. Last week, I received a note from the Youth Director (at that time) who reminded me of what I had said! “Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me.”

Becoming a mentor is an interesting experience. Reflecting on shared background and feelings gives me a number of things to reflect on in my own spiritual journey. One of the best things about our process is that we can take time to pray and spiritually explore both our past and the present.

The challenge this past month has been to practice gentleness when I’m starting to wear a bit thin in the caregiving part of keeping my mother company. It is easy to critique myself at the end of the day when I did not do a 100% perfect day of kindness and gentleness. Yup, I’m still a “recovering perfectionist” and a dose of gentleness really provides a good antidote for that condition.

I think back to Sr. Angela, Sr. Meredith James and other Community members who have passed on and I remember when I talked with them, they made me feel as if I was the most important person to them. They gave me their full attention and I felt at peace and comforted when I spoke with them. This is being gentle with others and inspires gratefulness.

I have shared this situation to emphasize the importance of treating others with “gentleness” It’s so much easier to blame than to look at our part in it all. It’s so easy to feel that “our side is right” and forget others feel just as strongly on the other side. I pray for the Holy Spirit to bring some light on our current “messy situation” and stir our hearts to

reach out in a non-defensive way to really listen. As Sr. Jane emphasizes, listen with our heart ready to hear and see the good in the person speaking.

I understand the importance of being present at the funeral. An opportunity to act in the spirit of the Fruit of Gentleness.

I have been struggling with a surge of depression and anxiety for some months and these past few weeks have been particularly difficult. I've been dealing with very difficult memories and the fear I had while married. Some days I have stayed in bed for hours, I think to feel safe. I am working hard with my counsellor to deal with this and I've had to increase my dose of antidepressant (I hope not forever). I am alright with family and friends close by.

How would God expect us to care for each other? He would ask us to be gentle and kind to each other and be there for them when they are in need of comfort, love and understanding. By showing that they are special to us, we are there to listen to their needs.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

The Fruit of Faith By Janine Robbins, WSHS

Walk by Faith



Janine lives in Cuba, Missouri. She was admitted as a Lay Worker in April 2024.

Faith/faithfulness is the only fruit found on both of Paul's lists: the gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:9) and the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Having faith in Christ is the gift, *demonstrating* it is the fruit. We are saved by faith, the gift. Then our works show the fruit of that faith. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is that we walk by faith and not by sight.

I was given the gift of faith very early in my walk with God. I just totally believed that God would keep his word, even when it was hard and no one else believed. I mean after all, He is God! Faith is complete confidence that we can trust that He loves us and will keep His promises. The Bible says, “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1).

We need faith for our salvation. Without faith, how can we believe and have assurance of all he has done for us on the cross? Christians who are strong in their faith are able to go with the flow. No matter what happens in their life, they cannot be shaken. As Billy Graham reminds us, “The Bible teaches that faith is the only approach that we have to God. No one has sins forgiven, no one goes to heaven, no one has assurance of peace and happiness, until they have faith in Jesus Christ.” (<https://billygraham.org/devotion/faith-pleases-god/>)

Not long ago my daughter-in-law’s doctor found that she had a golf ball sized cyst on her ovary. Her doctor said it was too large and she would have to have surgery. I had faith that God would heal her and asked her and my son to pray with me. Neither one of them had faith, but I figured where two or three are gathered, He is in our midst. At her next appointment the cyst was completely gone. Doctors were amazed. They said cysts don’t just disappear like that, but that is exactly what happened.

I used to drive a semi-truck all over the country picking up and delivering freight. Being on time and doing it safely are key, right? Well, I noticed that when I woke up in the morning, I always had the right amount of time. So, I stopped using my alarm clock, because I knew God would get me there on time. I was never late. Even when there were traffic jams or accidents, I always had enough time, and I didn’t arrive all stressed out.

Faith is a free gift of the Holy Spirit, and now we can show others the fruit of the Holy Spirit, our faithfulness. Jesus said if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, we can say to the mountain to move, and it will move (Matt. 17:20). If we practice using our faith, it grows.

A father brought his son to Jesus to be healed from evil spirits (Mark 9:20-27) and said, “if you can.” Jesus told him, “anything is possible if a person believes.” The father replied, “I believe; help my unbelief!” The father had a mustard seed amount of faith, and that was enough. Faith is believing when it’s beyond the power of our mind to believe. The fruit of faith is seen by others when we step out in faith.

Faithfulness is what we want to demonstrate to others. All we need to do is show our faith that God will be faithful when dealing with us. When we demonstrate our gift of faith, we are bearing fruit, the fruit of the spirit. This goes hand in hand with Jesus' teaching about the vine and branches (John 15:5). We must be grounded in Christ. If we aren't, we can't be fruitful. Faithfulness to God is a staying power. We don't just cut and run when things aren't going our way; we are faithful, loyal to God even then.

Faith is the cornerstone of Christianity. Without faith we have nothing. It all starts and hinges on faith. Without faith we couldn't believe in the miracles Jesus did, or his resurrection. Yet James reminds us that faith by itself is dead (James 2:26). We must walk our faith. When we do that, others can see and hear our faith in Christ, and see our peace because of our faith, and hopefully want what we have. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is what shines from us as we walk in the gift of the Holy Spirit and show our fruit of the spirit. When we pray and have faith for an answer, we are showing our friends, family, coworkers, and our family of Christ that we know God will come through at just the right time. His time. He has proven His faithfulness to me in all aspects of my life.

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.

—John 15:5

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. Janine underlines that faith is both a gift and a fruit, that the gift of Faith is given to us so that we can show forth the fruit of Faith in how we deal with our life situations in the here and now. Please share about a time when seeing another's faith in action strengthened your faith.
2. Janine speaks of faith, small as a grain of mustard seed, being enough to begin our spiritual journey. How has your personal faith journey developed over the years? Have you seen that mustard seed of faith grow as you encountered more and more evidence of God's love for you?
3. Janine used the term of faith being God's "staying power." Is there an area in your life now requiring that "staying power" when the temptation might be to "give up?"

4. When we are uncertain about what particular outcome is best for us, it is enough to know that we are loved beyond measure. When we have faith in this unlimited love, then praying for God's perfect will is the perfect prayer. Describe what praying in faith means to you personally

RETREAT 2024
OUR THEME: The Fruit of the Spirit
Learning Session Photos and Small Group Gatherings



Sr. Shirley Evangeline: *Retreat Coordinator*



Peter Brook, Sr. Shirley Evangeline, Sr Jane Bartimaeus
 Br. David, Sr. Nancy Teresa, Sr. Arnitta Monica
 Sr. LaVerne Peter, Sr. Charlotte Mary, Pam Winn



Howard McClendon, Father Harry Firth



A group that was at first reluctant to share. Annie Maude at mic.



Central Province Gathering



Central Province Gathering more!



Western Province Gathering



South and East Province Gathering

Worship Together

Sr. Catherine Marie and Br. Peter - Worship Leaders for our Retreat



Admissions and Intallations

Prioress - Sr. Wendy Samuel
Lay Workers - Janine Robbins and Erin Diericx

Canadian Director - Sr. Deborah

Sister Ginny Francis
Applicant Mary Mack



Mary Mack



Sr Wendy Samuel



Sr. Ginny Frances



Janine Robbins & visitors



Sr. Deborah



Erin Diericx
Stephanie



Janine Robbins & visitors



Chaplain Sr. Brenda Faith, Sr. Wendy Martha

Reception



Erin Dierix



Sr. Wendy Martha, Pat Cashman,
Sr. Catherine Marie



Sr Ginny Francis, Stephanie



Sr Alexandra Francis
Sr Shirley Evangeline



Sr. Christine, Sr. Barbara Rebecca



Sr. Bettie Suzanna
Marilyn Propp



Sr. Helen Joseph
Sr. Nancy Clare



Sr. Deborah, Sr. Wendy Samuel
Sr. Ginny Francis

Thursday Evening Gathering - Greeting One Another



Sr. Shirley Evangeline, Sr. Wendy Samuel



Sr. Bettie Suzanna, Sr. Linda Thomas



Janine, Stephanie, Erin



Annie Maude, Br. Peter Nicholas, Marya Pohlmeier



Sr. Kathleen Rachel, Sr. Diane Richard



Sr. Patsy Anne, Group, Sr. Nancy Teresa, Sr. Arnitta Monica, Pam Winn, Sari Jn-Francois, Sr. LaVerne Peter



Patricia Cashman



Sara Horner

Opening of Retreat and Awards Certificates of Completion of Packets to Sr. Ginny Francis, Janine Robbins, and Erin Dierick



New applicant shawls presented



Blessing of gifts for our Retiring Prioress Sr. Laverne Peter, Our retiring Bishop Visitor - Bishop Barry Howe in recognition of their many years of Community Service.

