

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



SEEKING GOD/OUR JOURNEYS
April 2025

Bulletin Cover ~ Past Healing Service Photo

Our Saturday evening *Healing Service* is one we treasure and look forward to each year. Each of us can recall much healing over the years as we pray for one another.

Community Communication Contacts:

Prayer Requests and Thankgivings 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 Marilyn Propp at proppjones@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. 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

Web Addresses: workersisters.org workerbrothers.org	
THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
Trina Avedisian, Friend, WSHS	Layout & Design WSHS/WBHS Bulletin
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

April 2025

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

April 26, 2025

The week of Retreat 2025, a Zoom Link will be emailed to members showing the dates and times when they may log in to Retreat sessions.

REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES

*****NOTE DATE CHANGE from 4th Saturday to 3rd Saturday in May & Dec 2025**

April 26 • *May 17 • June 28 • July 26 • August 23**

September 27 • October 25 • November 22 • *December 20**

Chapter Meets Online: April 8, 2025 @ 1pm EST

Retreat Dates: APRIL 24 – 27, 2025 at Mercy Center

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 – Cathy Gardner

Cathy Elizabeth Gardner
5607 W 98th Terrace
Overland Park, Kansas 66207
Phone: 913-963-6846
Email: cathyegardner@gmail.com
Birthday: May 7

Cathy Gardner is a special education teacher to preschoolers in Overland Park, Kansas. She and her husband, Steve (Sr. Nancy Teresa's son) have four children. Cathy is on the Good Neighbor team at her church that helps meet the needs of newly arrived immigrants and unhoused friends who are being newly housed. She also works at their food pantry, in coordination with Harvesters, that provides fresh food to our neighbors once a month. Her hobbies include learning, reading and feeding the people she loves. We look forward to welcoming Cathy at our 2025 Retreat!

NEW WORKER APPLICANT – Christopher Creech

Christopher Creech
3 Chandeleur Point
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402
Phone: 254-681-5118
Email: creech.chris@gmail.com
Birthday: Feb. 7

Christopher retired from the military (20 years in the Army) where he did several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is presently active in his church as verger, worship leader, eucharistic minister and visitor, altar guild, lector and currently discerning to the diaconate. He is married to Dr Tonya Creech and has 5 children. He

enjoys golf, fishing, riding his Harley, lifting weights, and running competitively. He learned about WSHS from Sr. Brenda Faith and Howard. He looks forward to a greater prayer life and expanding his community in Christ. We look forward to welcoming Christopher at our 2025 Retreat!

NEW FRIEND APPLICANT – Bob Hoopingarner



Robert Hoopingarner
10399 W. Runion Drive
Peoria, AZ 85382
Phone: 941-228-2105
Email: bhoop99@yahoo.com
Birthday: Feb. 14

Bob and his spouse Marianne live in Peoria, Arizona. Bob is currently working, part-time, as a Licensed Clinical Counselor. He is a longtime friend of Sr. Janeen Julian and her husband, Bill. Bob became interested in becoming a Friend of WSHS/WBHS through her encouragement. He looks forward to growing in his spiritual journey along-side members of WSHS /WBHS. We look forward to welcoming Bob at our 2025 Retreat!

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
1677 Mount Vernon Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303

To view the online Green Sheets, Go to www.workersisters.org;

- Centered above the group photo are the words:
[HOME](#) [WHO WE ARE](#) [COMMUNITY LIFE](#) [MORE](#)
- Click on MORE. That will show another list of options. Click on MEMBER PAGES.
- When it says to sign into your account, *REMEMBER* to Sign in as:
wshs.wbhs@gmail.com
- If you don't remember the password, please contact Sr. Christine.



FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

2025 WSHS/WBHS RETREAT – April 24-27

If you plan to attend via Zoom, please inform Sr. Kathleen Rachel so we know that you plan to attend online.

If you are coming in person, please bring your personal water bottle. In consideration of our environment, there will be no bottled water available at the Center.

YOUR RETREAT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES NEEDED

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

Please make sure to inform Howard about your travel plans (arrival day and time as well as your departure day and time). 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 of April 24-27 for safe travel, protection, wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for those of us at Retreat. Know that those at Retreat will be praying for you during this time.



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I have had glimpses of God's presence in my life since I was a teenager. When our youngest son was in the hospital, many years ago, and I had just lost my job, I felt God's presence. He looked after me and led me to a new position. There are many other times when God has shown his presence and carried me through difficult times.

I don't exactly know how it happened, but something has changed. I have always thought that my job as a Christian was to imitate Christ as best I can. His actions, mostly. And to study the scriptures to understand better the relationship between God and Humankind. But now? Hard to describe. Remember the song: "Christ has no body now but yours?" Well, it has taken on a whole new meaning for me. I no longer see my goal as imitating Jesus' actions. My job as a Christian is to be the presence of God in the world. I'm trying to let the Spirit direct me. Somehow, just being "good" is too shallow; this is much deeper. More instinctual, less cognitive. More listening.

After spending so much time thinking about faith as a Fruit last year, it finally got into my spirit that a good manifestation of faith is in thanking God for doing things, even when we have seen no evidence yet. This hit home vividly when re-reading John's account of Lazarus' raising. John 11:41-42: "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me."

I am so terribly thankful for all the people who have graced my path over my life. Coming to Retreat this year will be full of love and joy. I have lost a few pounds, so I can get into my habit. I remember when Sr Angela told us a story about her going home from Retreat one year. She saw someone in a red top in a store and she went up and hugged her! We have learned so much, haven't we, through our membership of this Community? I suppose the main thing is how to love.

My meeting with the VA chaplain was somewhat of a bust in that he wanted me to examine his own take on Christianity, the views of the Seventh Day Adventists, and that is not what I needed. I believe that what I need more of is trust in the Lord. There's a 20th century Roman Catholic saint named Saint Faustina Kowalska. I am probably a bit shaky on what her life and contributions are but, she is the originator of a well-known portrait of Jesus in which white and red beams of light are shooting out of his heart. Underneath this portrait are the words JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.

This month found me ministering to my family in ways that pulled me from one emotion to another! Most all of it surrounding my brother's death! His son has so much guilt over not keeping in touch with his dad or responding to calls and texts. I have listened and made a few suggestions; however, he keeps telling me the same thing over and over. Finally I asked him to write down all the ways he has felt guilty and put those messages in a large sack or box. When he felt "done" to either throw the sack or box in the trash or burn them. On his birthday he stated that he burned them in the fire pit at his home. He still calls most every day to tell me he loves me. I make sure I tell him I love him and he is in my daily prayers.

I have known Marilyn since the eighties but reading her spiritual autobiography sure enlightened me on her life. It was such an honor that she shared this with the community.

Glimpsing God is so special and important that I believe most people miss or don't recognize it. At times I didn't recognize God until later. I can remember one time when I was with a group of other children. We were many denominations, though all Christian and I saw an unusual cloud formation. We stared at it for a while and I convinced the group that it was souls ascending to heaven. We had had a member of our group who was killed in a traffic accident a few months earlier and we all discussed this. I was 11, spiritually extremely naïve, so the theology behind our discussion was lacking, but the fact that we were discussing God was a God glimpse.

I have seen God in the darkest times. When my dad died, it was all I had to hold on to. God spoke to me to let me know it was not my time during my car incident, and that was definitely a God glimpse. My introduction to WSHS during an Altar Guild cleaning and so much more. The older I get the more I see God/the Holy Spirit in life. Just didn't recognize it at times, and now I recognize God more and more. I see Him moving in people. I think that is a gift of getting older.

A position that I didn't want, but wound up enjoying and getting an education with was involved with the elementary school that my children attended. I was always Room Mother in their classrooms. Then I was asked to be secretary of the PTA, which I accepted with open arms, then it progressed to Vice President and I enjoyed that also. But when I was asked to be president, I froze. I said that I would be glad to be secretary again and I was told that you don't go down, you go up. I accepted it with caution. I had a fear of speaking to a large group and feared that my speeches would terrify me. I was just in my early thirties and very green. It took me quite a while to come out of my shell and be more comfortable speaking in front of the parents. There was so much to cover and I wanted to make sure I was prepared for comments and questions. With God's help, I came out of my shell, and became more confident in myself in general. I learned to speak up for myself, having been a very shy person. This is when I continued volunteering for different organizations. So my fear became a blessing in disguise.

I do hear God's voice quite often in the daily scripture readings. In reading the Gospels and the words of Jesus, so much stands out and I know he is giving me comfort and guidance throughout my life.

Most of my life I absolutely knew that God was at my side, but there was one time that I didn't feel His presence at all. Looking back, I now realize I was the one who pulled away, not HIM. I am thankful that even when you pull away and shut God down and out He still finds His way to us. I am grateful for his love, forgiveness and mercy. I wasn't open to God but he came through anyway. I am grateful for God's healing hand on my heart.

(We) both love the ocean and the trip was very healing. As I have grown older my religious practices have become quite simple. I try to be open to God in the many small ways he reaches out to me. These often involve nature and on this trip I had many such glimpses: in the waves crashing on the long sandy beaches, sunlight sparkling on the water, pelicans flying low over the waves, Gauguin's beautiful painting of sunflowers, the lovely Hispanic family we met on our boat ride, and many more. I have also become less fussy about where these moments come from.

There are few things better than realizing that God is leading us in the right direction. That's when following is easy, fulfilling, and comfortable. When we don't know if God is leading us; that's the hard part. May we all spend more time listening to that "still small voice."



FORMATION AND TRAINING

Seeking God: Our Journeys

By

Sr. Catherine Marie, WSHS

Sr. Catherine Marie, WSHS, lives in Crystal, Illinois. She was admitted as a Lay Worker in 1985. Sr. Catherine Marie currently serves as our Central Provincial.

In the fall of my sophomore year in college, I stumbled into a group of students singing and worshiping together in the chapel about ten o'clock at night. This event was when I began to experience my own personal conversations and relationship with God. It was where I first experienced the presence and help of the Holy Spirit. Of course, I had been baptized by my grandfather, an Anglican priest, and grew up in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. But now all that more formal traditional worship and teaching was transformed and became the glowing fire of God's love we sang about in that college fellowship: "It only takes a spark to get a fire going...that's how it is with God's love, once you experience it..." From that time forward, I was aware of God's presence in my daily life.

I think of my "invitation" to follow Jesus as simply stumbling into the experience, and then having it explained later. God knew I was not going to hear the invitation within the formal worship where I grew up. As Thomas Aquinas said, "To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible." I think God knew I needed "showing." And after all, I did grow up in Missouri, the "show me" state.

That said, I was blessed by family and others whose lives created strong examples for my own personal walk. In challenging times, I return to the promise in stories of how God has already acted in my life and in the lives of family and friends.

Early in life, I was aware that my parents always said prayers at bedtime. I used to hear their voices and see the light on over the partial wall that separated our rooms in the tiny apartment we lived in while my father was in seminary. For years I was comforted because I knew my parents were praying each evening. It was the seed for my own end-of-the-day routine.

I was about eight years old when Mother misplaced something while we were sewing together. She simply said: "let's pray about finding it." Shortly after that I had a dream about the lost items. So, I told Mother and we found them. This showed me I could ask for God's help, in even the smallest matters, and sometimes the answers might come in a dream.

There was a very wise woman in my father's Monday night prayer group at St. Lukes' Hospital, K.C. MO who babysat for us when I was young. When I came home during college, I often visited her and learned a great deal about being faithful in prayer. After I was married, Mother suggested that we pray with Auntie Blon for a certain prayer concern. This taught me about the comfort and power of having partners in prayer. During my last visit with Auntie Blon, she was on oxygen and could not get around easily. I asked if that was hard for her. She replied that she could still pray and that prayer was the most important ministry she had done in her life. Sometimes I still think of her love and prayer joining me from the communion of saints.

It was after I was married and had two children, was involved in Christian Education, and programs like Bible Study Fellowship and EFM (Education for Ministry), that I learned about Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit. At a Lenten study Sr. Angela was leading, she asked me if I had thought about being part of the Community. When I said I did not know about the group, she invited me to think about it.

So I began meeting with Sr. Angela, Sr. Meredyth, and a few others who lived in the area. I attended my first WSHS/WBHS Retreat in the mid 1980's and Sr. Meredyth became my cluster leader. For the first time, I was part of a community that shared deeply, prayed faithfully, worshipped joyfully, and provided excellent formational materials for my faith journey. The annual trips to Retreat provided a time of mentoring and sharing with my father, who served as Chaplain of our Community for many years.

I felt called to be a Worker, but at one point I was even unsure about that. I was hung up on the sense that I was not old enough, not capable enough and, oh

yes, the “you are not good or holy enough” lie. Recently, in *Forward Day By Day*, it was pointed out that Jesus did not choose his disciples because of “the capacity for competence but rather the capacity for connection and reconciliation” to God and others. The writer, Nikki Mathis, closed with: “Maybe real discipleship is being open and willing to connect, willing to fail and try again, continually called and continually answering... maybe that’s the job.”

Being willing to keep trying was the key as I became a Sister and was called to serve in leadership in our Community. And what else happened when I was called into a leadership position in WSHS? I learned I could feel the prayer support of others, and (after fussing for a bit) I knew to pick myself up, “listen with the ear of my heart,” and watch for the help of the Holy Spirit.

About ten years ago, while I was sharing a story and Bible lesson with the youngsters in Children’s Worship, I was stopped by a question from a bright red-headed youngster of about six or seven. He asked, “Where did you learn all this stuff?” It was, and still is, an important question.

As I have reflected on young Johnny’s question, I have become more and more thankful for all those in “the great cloud of witnesses” that have taught me and traveled with me and continue to travel with me in my journey closer to the heart of God. Among those at the top of my list are members of Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit. For forty years they have been there when I needed prayer, loving support, a faithful friend, a dose of reality, or when I simply needed “Jesus with skin on.”

Thanks be to God. And as I heard recently: “Blessed Spirit of God, thank you for calling me into this Community.”

Thank you so much Sr. Catherine Marie, for sharing your views and very personal journey with your Community on this month’s theme.

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. Catherine shares an important truth, that though we may have been brought up in a religious tradition, we may need a more personal experience of the holy.

In her college chapel all that more formal traditional worship and teaching was transformed and became the glowing fire of God's love for her brought alive by the Holy Spirit, which continues to unfold in Sr. Catherine's life to this day.

Can you relate to this experience? And if so, share about your inherited tradition and your own personal experience of the Holy.

2. Throughout our lives, individuals whether they be family members or others on our journey, leave distinct impressions upon us and support our unfolding faith in some unique ways

Share about important persons in your faith journey and how they have influenced and supported your faith.

3. Sr. Catherine shares some aspects of our WSHS community that for her, were very meaningful and supportive.

If you have been a member for some years, what has been most helpful to you about growing in your faith in the midst of this WSHS community? If you are newer in community, what are you looking for as you journey forward?