

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



**JESUS:
LIVING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
November 2024**

Bulletin Cover - Photo from January 1998 Bulletin Cover WSHS

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (John 15: 8)

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. 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
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
NOVEMBER 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

November 16, 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 (10AM MT, 11AM CT, 12PM ET)

In-person Corporate Communion

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

November 16* • December 14*

**** Date changed to 3rd Saturday due to the holiday***

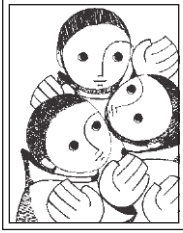
Chapter Meeting: Nov. 7-10, 2024 at Conception Abbey

2025 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**



SPECIAL NEWS NOTES

A few of us from Canada and Michigan gathered on September 24 for an overnight in Ancaster, Ontario. We had Corporate Communion on the 23rd at Sister Wendy Samuel's church, Church of the Nativity, Hamilton.



Front Row: Sr. Deborah, Sr. Barbara Rebecca
 Back Row: Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley, Sari - Companion, Sr. Jane Bartimaeus,
 Sr. Kathleen Rachel and Sr. Wendy Samuel




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 and The Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit.

We are blessed to receive a reflection from Companion Peter Brook.

With thanks from all of us!



Meekness/Humility
A Tribute to President Jimmy Carter
By Peter Brook, Companion

When I think of the word meekness (for me, a better term is humility), I immediately think about one of the people I admire the most and try to emulate, but miss the mark: President Jimmy Carter.

Beginning in the late 1970's and early 1980's when he was President, I was a young man newly out of college and on my chosen career in architecture. I was not that much into politics as I have become later in my life. Of course, I was aware that he was President but that was in the background. I think I first started paying attention to him and his wife Rosalynn when he had a leading role in founding Habitat for Humanity which was established in Georgia.

When I look back at the effect he had on American diplomacy after his presidency, he had no equal. I cannot begin to itemize the countries he worked with for human rights, peace, and the dignity of every race, creed and color. To him they were just people who needed help in extraordinary ways. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. I had the opportunity to visit his Maranatha Baptist Church in 2014 along with a dozen or so members of my church, Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal in Stone Mountain, Georgia. I returned again in 2016 with a member of WSHS Communion of Saints, Mary Grande, Friend. Both experiences were life changing, I will have those memories with me forever.

Jimmy Carter was the epitome of humility. One example is the fact that, when his church was full, a lady came out to let us know about etiquette in the presence of a president, information new to most of us. When a sitting president comes into the room, you must stand; former presidential etiquette does not require that. Also, we were not to clap because it made President Carter uncomfortable. We all

wanted to stand AND clap, as excited as we all were. I had chills down my back and a tear in my eye the first time I saw him.

Jimmy Carter did not do a sermon but gave us lessons on how to be a good person without all the self-aggrandizing that many require to feel important. The key is to be quiet and prove your worth by your actions which he did all his professional life. The presence of God and His son Jesus Christ were always present but more in the essence of the church than in the lessons he afforded us. There were always stories about the people he knew, the diverse places he went during his long history of helping people at home and in faraway lands as an ambassador and a statesman.

I guess I have shown here the respect and, yes, love I have for this man. I will be watching the proceedings on television when Jimmy Carter finally leaves this life and joins Rosalynne in the presence of God – I will say “Well done.”

Peter Brook, Companion



I'd love to receive one paragraph/story/poem/artistic rendering on any questions posed in our bulletin corner during the last year. Or maybe something else. What's bubbling up in you?

Marya Pohlmeier, Companion
maryalovestravel@gmail.com
1677 Mount Vernon Drive
St. Charles, MO 63303



SPIRITUAL SHARING

Being meek and humble to me would be accepting those as they are and loving them for who they are. Caring for them as loving children of God and wishing them well. As for myself being meek, I show myself as I am and am not trying to make myself more than I am. Knowing that I am a loving child of our God.

Humility to me, at least one way, is to be helpful and loving to others and to be there for them. Helping them in their time of need and showing them that they are truly loved and appreciated by me. And when they need help at any time, I will drop what I am doing to assist them.

This morning, in church, we recited an alternative creed that used the words 'we believe and trust.' I will be thinking about this for the coming few days. I have also been thinking again about humility. I am now reading Joan Chittister's book, *'The Rule of Benedict'* for the third time. I am now reading about how the leaders of a monastery should behave and all through Joan Chittister's comments, I see how much we need to be humble. While I have been "shedding" stuff I have here, I need to shed ego and to take time to step back from stuff and things, the way Jesus did when he 'doodled' in the dust before answering the Pharisees' questions regarding the treatment of the woman caught in adultery.

The second thing I want to mention is that next month I am going to be traveling to the Cleveland, Ohio area to attend a remembrance of my best man's son, James, who died of throat cancer at the young age of 37. He was married and he and his wife had a daughter, Charlotte, who is probably grade school age.

I have been thinking about the difference between assurance and righteousness/confidence. I need to do some research before I can say anything.

Last night I dreamed I was at Retreat, but everything had been changed. We no longer had the Healing Service, we no longer had the daily presentations. I was looking for someone whose face I could see clearly in my mind. I couldn't remember her name, and I was trying to find her as everyone walked past me. In my mind's eye she was smiling. When I woke up, I remembered her name: it was Sr. Meredith James! Why does she seem so close to me today? I decided I'd like to sit down and write my monthly letter.

I sit at my computer and watch the monarch butterfly flying from flower to flower. My view is the front garden, just under my window, and the large lilac bush, and the beautiful little dwarf non-fruit-bearing mulberry tree. A dragonfly just went by. Our home brings me such peace. It is all a gift.

Sr. Christine's writing on the Fruit of Goodness: I am so aware of God's goodness to me; it makes me smile. And so, when I go out into the world I smile at others, I feel God's presence with me, I know that the Lord is here. Goodness becomes kindness. With all the political turmoil right now, I need to stay close within God's peace.

I have an Irish temper and can spout off too quickly. The phrase "what would Jesus do" came in my head during one of these moments. It had to be the Holy Spirit working because it did not cross my mind! I remember a quote from an American nun, Pema Chodron: "Do not let people pull you into their storm. Pull them into your peace."

I am enjoying going to the United Church. What a breath of fresh air. I didn't realize how spiritually starved I was until now. I actually "want" to go to church on Sunday which is a BIG change from last year. We take our 84-year-old friend with us and she feels the same.

It is important to find temperance or moderation in everything that you do. So many people indulge in the wrong foods too often. I think temperance could be life-saving. As a nation, we need to learn moderation without going too far in one direction.

I am looking forward to our next Retreat in April 2025. I can't believe that another year will be upon us. We are so blessed as a Community to be able to be together each year in person and also have others join us on Zoom. Technology has allowed us to be together in so many ways. Blessings to God for loving us so dearly and connecting us together.

Temperance and self-control are how we keep ourselves in check. I'm always careful with my words. If I have an issue with someone, I always think for a long time before I speak my words because I know once those words are out, I cannot take them back. I try to be forgiving of someone else and of myself. I try to be gentle to myself and know that I'm not perfect but very loving to myself and especially to others. I thank God for my patience and self-control.

In our Community I believe meekness and humility are quite active in our members. I always look forward to talking with all Community members whenever possible, since we are all one in Christ. The Corporate Communions on Zoom are very special.

I have experienced situations where meekness and humility are nowhere to be found. People push their agendas and do not accept criticisms or suggestions. It becomes very difficult to be humble and meek at these times.

Yes, it is difficult to be humble in a crowd of opinionated people. One would hope that the quiet ones would get asked their opinion more often, because they are often good listeners, good observers who can see both sides of the argument. You have encouraged me to seek the opinion of the quiet ones more frequently.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

Jesus: Living the Fruit of the Spirit

By

Sr. Catherine Marie, WSHS



Sr. Catherine Marie lives in Crystal Lake, Illinois. She was admitted as a Lay Worker in April 1985 at our annual Retreat at the Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina.

At the beginning of our journey this year, focusing on the Fruit of the Spirit, Sr. Wendy Samuel wrote: "What greater Mentor do we have than Jesus to demonstrate how to 'show forth our fruit'?" Jesus not only tells us how; his life shows us how.

In his words recorded in the fifteen chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus uses the image of himself as the Vine and His Father as the vinedresser.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

Jesus uses this familiar, down-to-earth image about fruit and how it grows to make it clear to us how to live, grow, and bear fruit. Stay connected with Him, and the Father.

Jesus gives us the example in his life: never losing his connection to the Father. He never was separated from God the Father. Jesus explains the purpose of the relationship of abiding in God the Father to the disciples this way:

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The

words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.(John 14: 10)

This message about showing forth fruit simply says:

Abide in me, as I abide in the Father.

Let me abide in you, as the Father abides in me.

This accomplishes the Father's works – bearing fruit.

Simple. But, impossible for us to abide simply by our own effort. "...apart from me you can do nothing." As we can observe, fruit trees are beset by insects, disease, frost, lack of water and nutrients. Our efforts to abide in God's presence are also weakened by distractions buzzing in our heads, illness, lack of good food, lack of spiritual refreshment, and temptation to do-it-ourselves to name a few. We need help.

The Holy Spirit is that Helper. The Spirit keeps us connected to the Father and Jesus. The Spirit provides the channel for the nutrients that help us grow and the energy to help us show forth the Fruit of the Spirit. John Drescher (in *The Three-Fold Work of The Holy Spirit*) describes the work of the Spirit this way:

If we seek to summarize the ministry of the Holy Spirit, it might be said to fall into three main areas. First, his work is to show us Christ, for our salvation and sanctification. Second, the Holy Spirit seeks to transform us into the likeness of Christ as he produces in our lives the very character of the Lord Jesus- the Fruit of the Spirit. Third, the Spirit of God equips us to do Christ's work in the world.

God graciously sends the Holy Spirit to help us abide in Jesus and the Father. Our inclusion and abiding in this Father, Son & Holy Spirit relationship transforms us. As we abide we are able to bear much more Fruit of the Spirit, more of the qualities shown forth by Jesus.

As we journey together in our WSHS/WBHS Community we acknowledge our need for help every time we begin our WSHS/WBHS Community Prayer:

*Blessed Spirit of God, who has called us into this Community,
Come to us in all your fullness and powers, and enable us to consecrate
our lives to your will. As the branches are in the vine, so may we
abide in You. May your Fruit become evident in our lives...*

John Drescher says this about the Fruit becoming more evident: "...in the Fruit of the Spirit, is the only safe test of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Is the character of Christ being produced in us? Are we growing in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control?"

It seems to me that as we continue to grow and let the Holy Spirit transform us, all the fruits, combine to show forth in us more and more of the character of Christ.

I am reminded of Sr. Helen's image in the September Bulletin article. She commented that "we might find that we can't have one fruit without having some measure of the others. We can liken them to water drops on a window when it is raining. As the water drops slide down the window they bump into other water drops. Sometimes leaving a bit of themselves behind with that drop and sometimes taking a bit from another drop and expanding their own size."

It is the Holy Spirit that helps us and sustains us as we abide in Christ and grow into the likeness of Christ. The characteristics of Jesus -the Fruit of the Spirit- expand in our lives, bearing much fruit and giving glory to God.

*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be
My disciples. (John 15: 8)*

Finally, since apart from God "we can do nothing" it is the action of God calling us that reminds us to ask for the help we need. As disciples we respond:

we receive and accept the Holy Spirit's help
we abide in God

the character of Jesus
grows in us
the Fruit of the Spirit is shown forth in the world
God is glorified



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 Marie writes of abiding in the vine (Jesus) and bearing fruit. Reflect a minute. What differences do you notice in your life (in your feelings, motives, thoughts and actions)?

When you are abiding in the vine?

And when you are cut off and "doing your own thing?"

2. Reflect on subtle changes on your evolving spiritual journey in abiding. What practices help you to prioritize the time needed for opening up to this ultimate intimate relationship where we abide?

3. Try Lectio Divina with our Community Prayer. The first four lines in Sr. Catherine's article. Write about the word or phrase that seemed to speak to you today and then write a short prayer about intentions going forward.