

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION:  
WHERE AM I CALLED?  
APRIL 2026**

# Bulletin Cover - photo by Jomarc Nicolai Cala - on Unsplashd

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. At the bottom of the page, click on CONTACT US. That will take the person to a form to fill out, and then click Send. The email goes to our Admissions Coordinator, Sr. Anna Joshua, who will follow up with the person.

**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  
April 2026**

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 25, 2026**

Eastern/Southern WSHS Province, U.S. & Canada	Br. David, WBHS, brdavidwbhs1@gmail.com	1:00 PM ET
Central WSHS Province U.S. & Canada	Sr. Catherine Marie, WSHS, sr.catherine.marie@gmail.com	2:00 PM CT
Western WSHS Province U.S. & Canada	Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS, wguyton17@gmail.com	9:00 AM Arizona Time
<b><u>In-person Corporate Communion</u></b>		
Pleasant Hill, Tennessee	Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS	TBD

**REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES**

**\*\*\* NOTE DATE CHANGE from 4th Saturday to 3rd Saturday in November and December 2026**  
**April 25 • May 23 • June 27 • July 25 • August 22**  
**September 26 • October 24 • \*\*\*November 21 • \*\*\*December 19**

***Chapter Online Meeting – April 8, 2026***  
***Retreat 2026 at Mercy Center – September 3 - 6, 2026***

**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**



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**COMMUNITY CHANGES**

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

### **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

You are encouraged to explore our **WSHS/WBHS website**. Check it out!  
Go to [www.workersisters.org](http://www.workersisters.org)

- Centered above the group photo are the words:  
HOME WHO WE ARE COMMUNITY LIFE MORE
- Click on the word MORE. That will show another list of options.  
Click on MEMBER PAGES (the last option.)

- 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



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FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

## RETREAT UPDATE!

We have worked out a new time for our 2026 Retreat with the Mercy Center.

**We will meet September 3-6, 2026 at the Mercy Center, St. Louis, MO.**

We have been blessed by the Holy Spirit guiding us and working with the staff at the Mercy Center. They had this one weekend available in the fall! The elevator replacement is scheduled to be completed by then, so we will enjoy our usual wonderful accommodations.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, but appreciate your understanding and look forward to being together in person again.

**ALL** members of the Community are invited to attend; Workers, Sisters, Brothers, Companions and Friends.



PRIORESS

## THANK YOU SR. NANCY TERESA!



It is with extreme gratitude that we acknowledge the many years of Sr. Nancy Teresa's dedication along with countless hours of maintaining the diversity of funds required as our Treasurer for the successful functioning of this Community's financial obligations to and for the various projects involved. We take this opportunity, Sr. Nancy Teresa, to say "Thank you" for the love and support you have provided us these very many, many years. God has blessed us with so many talented and committed individuals of whom you are a shining example. May we all rise to your level of unstinting loyalty and unwavering devotion to God and this Community." Amen!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW TREASURER!



Meet Joe Guyton! Joe is Sr. Wendy Martha's husband. They live in a retirement community, Saddlebrooke, north of Tucson, Arizona. Joe has one son, and a step-daughter along with several grandchildren. Joe is a life-long Episcopalian. He graduated from The University of the South, Sewanee, TN and received his MBA in Finance from Columbia University. After serving as a USAF Captain in 1971, Joe began a career in banking where he served as CEO and President of a community bank. He is a committed Rotarian and has served in many capacities including President and as Treasurer of the club and also a related Foundation.

A very warm welcome Joe and thank you for accepting the position as the new Treasurer for the WSHS/WBHS Community! May God bless you and this Community as we enter into this new relationship.



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## COMPANIONS AND FRIENDS CORNER

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Let us Companions and Friends pray daily 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. Amen.**

*My Response to Sr. Wendy Samuel's article  
"Our Path in Caring for all of God's Creation"*

*By*

*Peter Brook, Companion, WSHS*

I met Daphne Hunt when our church planned a group caravan to Americus and Plaines, Georgia, to attend President Jimmy Carter's Maranatha Baptist Church in Plaines. About a dozen of us signed up for this trip with great anticipation.

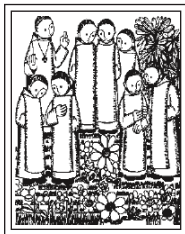
Daphne drove her minivan for several of us. We all had a wonderful time. When we returned to Atlanta, Daphne and I became friends and over the next few years I went to her home from time to time when she needed things done around the house. There came a time when I noticed that she would sometimes get confused and get lost on her way back from the store or from church. There were other indications that she was losing her short term memory. As time went on, it became clear that she would not be able to live alone. The only family she has are two step-

sons; Ted and his wife, Diane, Earl III and his husband, Scott who live in Florida. I contacted them and we began making plans about selling Daphne's house and locating a memory care facility.

A facility was found that would meet her needs perfectly, Atria Tucker. The process moved on and, within a short period of time. the house was sold and she moved to Atria.

I had to make the decision early on that it would be my ministry to become Daphne's Power of Attorney so that I would be able to make decisions for her. Her family took on the financial situation and I took care of everyday challenges.

In my mind, as Christians, it is our place to help others who need it most and not take for granted that others will do it. Working with Daphne on a daily basis has its challenges, but I will do just that as long as I am able.



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## COMMUNION OF SAINTS

### **A Tribute to Barbara Richards, WSHS**

**By**

**Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS**



The following is a tribute to *Barbara Louise Richards*, commonly known as Barbie. She was born in 1949 and died in 2025.

Barbie had cerebral palsy. She lived with her mother and after her mother died, she lived alone for several years before living in various care centers. She was active in our church. Her family was very supportive.

When Barbie was 12, she acquired a three wheel bicycle which was guaranteed not to fall over. She fell over, sustained a concussion and was in the hospital in a coma for 5 days. When she woke up, she was told to go home, teach herself how to speak again and work on her own rehabilitation. Thus a traumatic brain injury.

She went on to speak and walk with a walker. She attended school and graduated from college. She then did some coding for computers and loved it but was soon unable to continue to work. She was eventually confined to a motorized wheelchair.

I met her over 40 years ago. She was in a wheelchair, but could still walk with help. I was immediately taken by her strength, her sense of humor and her ability to carry on over seemingly insurmountable odds.

I visited Barbie often and she and Sr Jacquie Elizabeth and I would go out to lunch, eventually accompanied by one of Barbie's companion dogs.

When we were together, Barbie didn't focus on her challenges. She just figured out a way to make something work. She was always interested in others, me and my family. We shared Eucharist frequently in the various care centers where she lived.

Finally, she contracted the flu, and aspirated food which led to pneumonia. She was surrounded by family, and under hospice care when she finally made her way to her new life. She managed to live for 10 days, comatose, without food or water. She fought to be alive to the very end.

She loved our WSHS community. She once said if WSHS was not a part of her life, she would know the difference.

Barbie's parents were told that she wouldn't live past 40. She died at 75.



## SPIRITUAL SHARING

What a magnificent cover picture! Then I turned to the inside of the *Bulletin* and found Sr. Nancy Clare's beautiful article about living in an icon and discovering more of God in creation. A time when the natural world spoke to me was when we were driving to a conference in the Northeast. It was leaf-peeping season, and the woods on the Pocono Mountains were in full glory. It had been raining lightly, and the many colored leaves glistened in the early evening sun. As we climbed toward the top of a steep rise, a bright double rainbow appeared directly ahead of us like a brilliant stained-glass image that we could both see and see through. We pulled the car off the road, and we sat in silent awe until the sun dropped below the mountains and the rainbow faded to clear sky. It was a holy moment for both of us.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sr. Nancy Clare speaks of the most famous (icon) as The Trinity. I have a copy in my kitchen. I love it as I think of this Trinity and the story in the Old Testament as a foundation for Benedictine life.

\*\*\*\*\*

God gave me a prayer for peace some years back. It always ends with, *"Blessed Holy Spirit, please receive this prayer and align it with the Father's perfect Will, so that with confidence, we may pray in the glorious name of the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ."* I have recently begun asking for that alignment to include all prayers going back 24 hours and forward 24 hours, so every prayer during the interim will be more effective. Yet as I write this, I'm thinking now to ask God to teach me to pray with His mind and heart rather than my own.

\*\*\*\*\*

St. Francis was one with all nature and we need to live his example of life. All life is connected and we must appreciate God's gifts to all.

\*\*\*\*\*

When I think about the slower pace at which nature unfolds, I realize how much I miss when I move too quickly. There is something about winter especially that teaches me this. The quiet, the stillness, the softer sounds; they invite me to slow down whether I plan to or not. In that slowing, I begin to notice more: the way snow rests on branches, the pale winter light, the silence that feels almost sacred.

\*\*\*\*\*

What helps me slow down is this intention. If I step outside with awareness, even for a few minutes, and allow myself to breathe deeply and look carefully, I begin to enter that slower rhythm. I also find that putting my phone away and giving myself permission not to rush changes everything. I keep the TV and radio turned off so I am not distracted. I have deleted social media from my phone/computer. I have eliminated the habit of buying off of Amazon!

\*\*\*\*\*

When I slow down, I feel more like part of something much larger and more beautiful. That shift alone feels like entering the Icon.

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Yes, a fascinating quote from Hildegard. "We shall awaken from our dullness.... If we fall in love with creation... we will respond to its endangerment with passion." Seeing the danger, yet discovering God and not losing hope.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am determined to provide a habitat in my yard for Monarch butterflies and for any bees as may happen along. For a plant with "weed" in its name, one might think that establishing milkweed in a garden would be a piece of cake. I will keep planting each year until I meet success. Milkweed and coneflowers, take root and multiply!

\*\*\*\*\*

I enjoyed the article by Sr. Nancy Clare. We must see all things in nature as God's gifts and treat them carefully and with respect. We live in the country and we back onto open fields. Nature is all around us and you can't help but appreciate the beauty of God's creations.

\*\*\*\*\*

We recently had a 2-hour “quiet day” in our parish, about dealing with despair. The author *Christian Wiman’s* works were discussed and he included this advice: “The best antidote to despair is Awe. I have tried to find some Awe in beautiful trees and sunsets. It’s definitely hard to be in despair when watching the fold sky turn to orange and red after the sun goes down.”

\*\*\*\*\*

I’m happy we have downy woodpeckers and nuthatches.

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Although the questions for reflection seem to focus mainly on appreciating nature in the here and now, I’m also drawn to a much longer view. Saint Augustine spoke of the “great book: the very appearance of created things,” which resonates with me. Staring at the night sky, I can almost (but not quite) grasp that each twinkling star is actually a burning sun and that our galaxy is only one of uncounted galaxies in our universe. And who’s to say we’re the only universe God created? I read the Creation stories in the Bible as attempts to render something that is true beyond our limited human comprehension. I read science and see God at work in the created world.

\*\*\*\*\*

Blessings on your ministry within our Community. It is a blessing for the rest of us.

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I find myself fed more this Lent by two sources: the online Morning Prayer service from the National Cathedral, and reading one or sometimes two Psalms right before turning out the light at night.

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For all of us there is a time when we need to be carried. I am so grateful for our community which has carried me so many times. I am also glad that you realize this is the time in your life to rest and learn and grow quietly.

\*\*\*\*\*

A few years before my Mom and I moved , the city planted some myrtle and other flowering trees in my neighborhood. I really needed one of them in front of our house. GOD HEARD MY PRAYER! "My" tree blossoms every July. I waited every year for it. Comfort doesn't come only from humans, but also, as in the article, from "God's natural world".



FORMATION AND TRAINING

## **Caring For All God's Creation: Where Am I Called?**

**By  
Sr. Catherine Marie**



In our WSHS/WBHS community, we care for each other and our part of God's creation. So, when Sr. Wendy Samuel began our reflections about Caring for All God's Creation in January, I noticed her statement about becoming more active in accomplishing what God would have us do as "caretakers." Since then, my mother has come to live with us this spring and I find myself once again in a very active role of "caregiving."

My curiosity led me to look up the distinction between caretaking and caregiving. This is what I discovered.

Caretaking is usually used to refer to care of specific things and places, such as the job of a janitor. Caregiving on the other hand usually refers to activities that support people and other living creatures. As I consider caring for all God's creation, I realize I am called to be both caretaker

and caregiver. Both these roles ask us to contribute to the well-being of a part of God's Creation. To answer the invitation to respond as a caretaker and caregiver, I took a personal inventory.

Currently, in the caregiver category, I have been supporting my mother's daily routine, checking up on the caregiving for my closest friend (who has Alzheimer's), and leading chair yoga two times weekly. There is also time spent facilitating the sharing of a women's study group on Saturdays along with listening to others, as I keep in touch with our WSHS/WBHS family and other local friends and family members. And of course, there is the usual care for those who live in our house. Well, on the caregiving side of things I discover that I am a bit worn out. And it is because, once again, I forgot that to care for others, I need to allow time for self-care.

I was reminded of self-care when someone else's list of practices for care of the earth was shared with me. Some suggestions on that list spoke to me: "live more lightly", "ask for help when I need it," "pursue a daily practice that clarifies my mind, strengthens my heart, and supports me," and then "commit myself daily to the healing of our world and the welfare of all beings." I am regaining a sense of balance that includes both receiving and giving in the care of all God's creatures. As I have begun to accept more help from other caregivers for my mother, and have made time to "just be" or take a yoga class, I am less exhausted and find blessings as I care for others.

When I consider where I am with the caretaking of specific things and places, I admit I have sometimes been discouraged because I feel that my small efforts don't make much difference in caring for the world. However, because of listening to sharing in our WSHS/WBHS community and in my home parish community, I have heard stories which affirm that small actions of caretaking matter. As I type these words, I think that perhaps for many of us, it is the small actions of caretaking in our everyday lives that can matter most. Being faithful in small ways adds

to the actions of all caretakers of God's creation. Our small acts of kindness accumulate in the way that many drops of water gather to become a pond, a river, or an ocean.

Sitting here in early springtime, responding to the invitation to share my journey, I am beginning to watch for new and creative ways of caring for God's creation by starting small, and planting seeds of hope. Soon I can get outside and bless the earth by laying my hands upon the earth in my own yard and garden, as suggested by Steven Charleston in his book, Ladder to the Light. In times of prayer, I am beginning to use the image of God's care being poured over and covering the whole globe. (That is the same image my own father used to pray for world peace.) Perhaps it is time to sing and praise God when I am taking out the compost bucket, or when I am doing other caretaking tasks around the house. And I am recognizing I do already extend the reach of my care for God's creation when I support caregivers and caretakers who have organized to help people and creatures and environments in need worldwide. My own hope for bearing new fruit in this journey as caregiver and caretaker of God's creation grows because I have company - our WSHS/WBHS community.

As we focus together this year on responding more actively to the call to care for all God's creation, we and our world will be blessed.

Let us go forth, caring and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit at work among us.

### **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. Note the distinction Sr. Catherine shares between "care-taking" and "caregiving". She believes that both are important and needful.

*Take a moment to think about who you are now giving care to in your day to day world and what are you taking care of in the sense of caretaking.? Make a list of who and what are benefiting from your actions today.*

2. Sr. Catherine notes “our small acts of kindness accumulate the way many drops of water gather to become a pond, a river, or an ocean.”

*How does believing this truth decrease your need to “try to do it all yourself” or to believe only the “big” things count?*

3. Can caretaking also be a part of care giving? An example: taking care of a home that some loved one is living in? Sr. Catherine mentions that she is beginning to watch for new and creative ways to do both.

*Does her article bring to mind any changes you might want to make in this area?*

4. Sr. Catherine also notes a common pitfall .....burnout! This comes from taking care of and giving care to everyone and everything in your life without taking care of yourself. Have you experienced burnout? Trying to give when you are empty? Or feeling resentful at these times?

*Take some time to evaluate how you are balancing the outward flow of your care with the inward flow needed to keep you balanced, healthy and whole. What restores you and gives you joy these days? How are you cultivating caregiving for yourself?*