

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



SEEKING GOD/OUR JOURNEYS
March 2025

Bulletin Cover ~ Past Retreat Photo

We love the joy and fun we have in connecting with each other.

Left to right: Sr. Catherine Marie, Sr. Paula Adelaide, Brother Peter Nicholas, Brother David.

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.shirleyevangelinepace@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	
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS
March 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

March 22, 2025

Eastern Regional USA & Southern Regional USA	Br. David, WBHS, brdavidwbhs1@gmail.com	1:00 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 Arizona Time

In-person Corporate Communion

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

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

March 22 • April 26 • *May 17 • June 28 • July 26 • August 23
September 27 • October 25 • November 22 • ***December 20**

Chapter Meets Online: March 12, 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:

Sr. Paula Adelaide has a new address

778 Mayfair Drive, Princeton IL 61356-2330

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

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

RETREAT REMINDERS

ALL members of the Community are invited to attend. Workers, Sisters, Brothers, Companions and Friends. Plan now to attend either online or in person!

Retreat dates are April 24-27, 2025 (Thursday to Sunday).

For those attending in person, the completed Registration form with check is due by or before March 14. If it's received after March 14, we cannot guarantee a room will be available for you.

If you have not received some or all of the Retreat information, please email or call Sr. Christine and she will send you the forms you need.

ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE TIMES NEEDED

To those who plan to attend Retreat 2025 in person, please email or send to **Howard McClendon, Companion** the date, day of the week, and time you will arrive, along with your departure time. His email is: hmclndn@gmail.com. His cell number is: 601-467-7628. This will facilitate making correct arrangements and coordinating shared transportation. Thank you.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Daylight Savings Time is scheduled to start on **March 9** everywhere (except Arizona and Hawaii.) If you attend an online Regional Gathering in a different time zone from yours, check the schedule in this Bulletin and note when the meeting starts. Then figure out what time to call in.

YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Please pray about your journey and if you are willing to share it, send it to Sr. Christine who is our Communications Coordinator. If you are willing, she will publish it in one of the monthly Bulletins throughout the year. May God bless our journeys and the results of our own "seeking God!"



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 Brothers of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Our Theme for this year is **SEEKING GOD – OUR JOURNEYS**

We will take this year to open our hearts and recognize our own journeys and let God lead us to be open to others' journeys, though they be the same/similar or perhaps very different.

Each of us, Friends and Companions, are asked to ponder how God has led us on our journey to God and to share a bit of that with one another through this quarterly column and our Pentecost Letter. This can help us grow in knowing, loving, caring, respecting, and valuing one another. This is especially important since we are not in much direct contact with face-to-face sharing other than our annual retreat or the monthly regional gatherings. If I may put in a plug, try your darndest to come to Retreat 2025 this year!

Send to Marya Pohlmeier maryalovestravel@gmail.com
1677 Mount Vernon Drive, St. Charles, MO 63376
To chat about something: 636-284-9784

One Short Thought for March from Marya for our theme...Seeking God!

Benedict's Rule is clear on the charge to offer hospitality to all who knock and even to the poor who call out. All are to be received as Christ. This follows the gospel imperative, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me...for whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers, you do to me." How do we live Benedictine hospitality here, and now?



COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Remembering Sr. Jacquie Elizabeth**Oct 21, 1938 – Aug 11, 2024****By****Sr. Nancy Clare**

Sr. Jacquie Elizabeth was my dearest friend, more like a sister. We knew and shared ourselves with one another for more than 50 years. We went together to St. Luke's Hospital for our interviews with Sr. Angela, both of us a bit intimidated. But we became members and prospered in this community as we encountered so many formation opportunities, the strongest of which was the warm fellowship and acceptance with always that little "push" to grow more into our most authentic selves.

Jacquie and I shared so much over the years. I was privileged to know what traumatic experiences she lived through in her early years— others in community, especially in chapter, had glimpses of this past. But with therapy and time and love she grew and became more than a survivor, she was truly a wounded healer to all who crossed her path in pain, or loneliness, or need. Sometimes she gave more than she could afford. She was always in the moment with those in need.

Jacquie was drawn to children always, and to those in need, even strangers in a grocery store received her blessed attention and love. She gave the most unconditional love of anyone I have ever known. I'm not saying she was perfect; she was human of course, but fully human and filled with the Holy Spirit of compassion and love. She sensed when someone needed a hug, a smile, a time to be quiet until ready to speak. I was sometimes on the receiving end of this compassion and I saw it offered to many over the years, community members, neighbors, children and even strangers.

She was the last one to be with Sr. Patty before she took her life. She found a safe shelter for her to find some peace even though she did finally take her life. At

this most difficult time Jacquie stood up to immense pressure in order to protect Patty in a painful situation. She had immense courage when it came to protecting others. Sometime later, when she was hospitalized, she saw Patty in the evening at the end of her bed smiling a beautifully peaceful smile, one she had never seen on Sr. Patty's face in her lifetime. She knew then that Patty was at peace and shared this blessing with her grateful family.

Sr. Jacquie had a delightful sense of humor and others can tell tales of times she had everyone in stitches. I've heard some especially funny stories about Chapter retreats and Sr. Jacquie. She was loved by all – no one escaped her attention if they needed her. She lived in the moment and could be delighted by life in so very many ways. I miss this dear friend and Sister. I saw her days before she died and I know she heard me. She lifted her nodding head and smiled that beautiful smile. She lives on in our hearts always.



SPIRITUAL SHARING

Our Thanksgiving and Christmas was filled with laughter and love and so thankful to be surrounded by family!

"Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding." Kahlil Gibran

Daughters and I have made a date for every Wednesday at 3pm to get together at our house for coffee and cookies!

In other news, I have been asked to give an after-church presentation at First Congregational Church of Palo Alto. It will be about teaching English as a Second Language to immigrants. I would really like to make such a presentation, but in addition to giving an oral presentation, I would also like to show some slides of possible books to use in such an endeavor. At this point in time, I don't have the foggiest idea of how to show slides. It will require a lot of back and forth with the coordinator of this event and with our associate pastor, who is extremely savvy when it comes to things electronic. I solicit your prayers in this matter.

This has been a time of confusion and growth. The health issues altered my last three months. But as I reflect on those crazy days, I realize that I had an underlying beam of support with my faith.

Praying for our country and all our people. All the animals that are homeless and those people who are homeless as well. Keeping them safe from harm.

This year's theme, Seeking God, is fitting for me. I feel as though God has been talking to me through dreams and what I am hearing scares me more than anything: being a prophetic voice. I do not know what, how, and why, but this is not the first time I have felt this call. Please pray. I do not know if I am strong enough.

Spiritual journey is a life journey. I saw a video the other day that was talking about God's name. YHWH is an intake of your breath, (YH) and exhale (WH) . So do we say God's name with our first intake of breath at birth and our last breathing out at death?

As I noted in October, I seem to find what I need, appearing on the page as I type to someone else. But today I found what I needed to remember speaking to me again from my own letter that I reread. The passage about taking all my concerns to where the water flows from the throne of God. Ezekiel 47: 12 so that "...Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing." Again, that sanctuary becomes for me (water) flowing from beneath the very heavenly throne of God. And there I go in the times I seek healing for self and others. My own memory got jogged once again.

We were then able to attend the Remembrance service for my brother and I was able to read at the service. So I am glad that I was able to participate in the service. On the Monday we attended the interment of ashes to say our final goodbyes. A sad occasion but we spent time with my niece and nephew as well as our family and enjoyed time over dinner. A sad but good time.

The ritual of remembering those who have gone before, it is so important. The only good way to say "good-bye". I'm also glad you were able to be present for your brother's family.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

Seeking God: Our Journeys

By

Sr Deborah, WSHS

Sr. Deborah, WSHS, lives in Midland, Ontario. She was admitted as a Lay Worker in 1987. Sr. Deborah currently serves as our Canadian Director.

My grandfather, an Anglican Priest, baptized me. What an honour! I grew up going to Church and Sunday School and loved it. I have many memories of Christmas Concerts, Junior Axillary, Explorers, CGIT - all good groups that contributed to my knowledge of God. My four sisters and I would "play church." We used our bunkbed ladder as a communion rail. I was the priest and we flattened bread and made red Kool-Aid for the elements. I read the prayers from the Book of Common Prayer. I collected an offering and then we went to the store and bought candy. I laugh at those childish things now. I still have my New Testament given to me in Grade 5 where I made my decision to receive Christ as my Saviour on March 7, 1965.

I was almost 11 and it felt very serious to me but I did not really know in my heart who God was until August 17, 1984, twenty years later. I was with a group of ladies at a sales convention and the talk around the table was all about jewels and furs and pink Cadillacs. I said to myself, "There has to be more to life than this." I was married to Bob Stewart, had three wonderful girls and was relatively happy at the time but something was missing.

I left that meeting and went to my room and turned on the television. The show I turned on was the 700 Club and they were talking about God and prayer and I don't remember much else, but I felt that I KNEW God was REAL in an instant. I came alive that night. The world looked different, beautiful, meaningful. I had been taking my girls to church and was even teaching Sunday School but my

heart was not there. After that night, I started to pay attention. As the fall came, I started reading the Bible and the words were jumping off the page. I was learning who Jesus was and who he was to me. I was so excited my questions were being answered, but I realized that I needed to find someone to really teach me how to live this life.

I asked and God answered. I was invited to a service at a church where a friend of mine was becoming a Companion with The Worker Sisters of The Holy Spirit. Some of you may remember Sister Elaine Caroline. She was becoming a Companion at the time. I felt this Community was to be my spiritual home. I applied and went to my first WSHS Retreat in April of 1985. That was the year Sister Angela was on sabbatical and Sr. LaVerne Peter and Sr. Carol Matthew took charge of Retreat. I felt so at home, like I had known everyone all my life. Almost 40 years have passed and I have experienced so much growth and love and a great deal of healing in Our Community.

There were many profound experiences along the way, praying for others and seeing answers, visions and understanding to the depth of my soul. One of the most wonderful things that has happened on this journey is the understanding that reconciliation and healing of a relationship can happen even after the death of one of the parties. This reconciliation was with my husband. We were divorced in 2008 after 32 years of marriage. It was painful and yet I felt it right at the time. The weekend I decided to leave Bob, I was on an airplane on the way to Retreat and found a sample bottle of perfume "L'air du Temps" in the pouch of the seat in front of me. The top of the bottle has two doves on it and on this bottle, one of the doves had a broken tail. It did not look perfect. As I looked at it, I said, "That's us, one of us is broken." I was not sure which one but our marriage was really over.

On August 25th, 2016 I was traveling with Dave (my current companion) to an anchorage on Georgian Bay. As we travelled, I noticed a heart shaped cloud in the sky. It stayed there for what seemed a long time. As I watched, the cloud transformed into the shape of a Dove. I remember thinking, look at that, the tail is even perfect.

A few hours later, the cloud was gone and we were sitting on the boat relaxing. The phone rang and it was one of my daughters who was crying hysterically. Before she could say a word, I said, "It's your Dad, isn't it." Bob's body had been discovered that night as my daughter returned home from a week away. He had been gone for some time.

The next day I started thinking about that heart in the sky and the perfectly formed dove. I felt that somehow, the heart was our love and the perfect dove was showing healing had happened between Bob and me. A reconciliation had occurred. The grief sometimes still surfaces of not just his death, but the loss of a marriage. Mostly I celebrate what we did have and the beautiful family we raised together. Three daughters and now five grandchildren. We were truly blessed.

As time marches on, I am happy and content and hopefully opening myself further to following Jesus Christ. I am finding that God surprises me every day. I love my life and the opportunity to serve God in whatever way I am called. I want to be open to what God wants for me. It is a truly remarkable journey and I am so thankful.

After the death of the Pastor in my church, I said many times, "I hope I don't get asked to be on the selection Committee for a new incumbent." A few weeks ago, I heard a few lines from a song in church, "there's a calling in the wind, come with me, come with me". I thought those words were for our entire congregation but in the days after that service, I kept hearing them over and over again in my head. My heart was slowly changing and as a few other things kept happening, I felt perhaps that I should be on that search committee and went with an open heart to a Council meeting of the executive and current interim Pastors. To my great surprise, I volunteered to be co-chair of the selection Committee and it feels just right. The person I asked to co-chair with me agreed within 24 hours. I feel like I have turned a corner in not immediately saying no to things presented to me. I heard God clearly in this and had been praying about listening for God's voice.

I am certain this will be a busy year for me, but the day after I volunteered, I experienced a little panic. Then the following words came into my head. "Be not afraid, I go before you always." This will be a year of trust.

Thank you so much Sr. Deborah 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. Deborah tells of how she didn't want to be asked to serve on the Search Committee for a new pastor and yet ended up volunteering to be a Co-Chair. Have you ever experienced something like this happening to you, not wanting to serve in some way, yet have changed your mind and ended up happy to be doing so?

2. Do you have early memories of church that helped form your view of God?

3. Sr. Deborah remembers her time of conversion when she recognized and welcomed Jesus truly in her life that triggered her wanting to know and be more. Do you remember your "spiritual awakening." Can you share it?