

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



**JESUS: THE FULFILLMENT OF THE
LAW AND THE PROPHETS
October 2019**

Bulletin Cover: Jesus the Fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – Matthew 5:17

Internet Photo

Community Communication Contacts:

Prayer Requests and News Notes for the monthly Bulletin - email Br. Ephrem, andrews8484@hotmail.com or see green sheets for his mailing address.

Changes of address, phone numbers, email addresses - email Sr. Christine casturges@gmail.com or Sr. Wendy Samuel virtue54@outlook.com or see green sheets for mailing addresses.

Urgent Community Prayer Requests for email distribution – email or call Sr. LaVerne Peter: Callaghan@aol.com, Sr. Christine: casturges@gmail.com or Sr. Wendy Samuel: virtue54@outlook.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 –

Check contributions to the Haiti Clean Water Project may be mailed to Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS 7711 E Waverly Street, Tucson, AZ 85715.

Please make your check payable to Alexandra Zarris. Put “WSHS Haiti Clean Water” in the memo line.

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

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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
OCTOBER 2019**

CORPORATE COMMUNIONS

Corporate Communion and meetings are held monthly where members are within physical proximity of each other. Currently these gatherings are taking place in the following locations. For more information, please contact the Community member listed below.

Ontario, Canada
Michigan USA
Kansas City, MO USA
Southern MO USA
Pleasant Hill, TN USA
Arizona USA
Illinois USA

Br. David, WBHS
Sr. Julie Margaret, WSHS
Sr. Dorothy Cecilia, WSHS
Sr. Barbara Veronica, WBHS
Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS
Ginny Berkey, WSHS
Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

CORPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2019

October 26

November 23 • December 14

RETREAT
APRIL 30 - MAY 3, 2020
CELTIC SPIRITUALITY
Mercy Center, St. Louis, MO

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. Arnitta Monica has a **new land line phone**. It is: 202-398-1030

Sometimes her cell phone coverage is intermittent. If you can't reach her on the cell phone, she can be reached on the landline phone.

Sr. Lucia has a **new email address**: srluciawshs@gmail.com

Please **delete the home phone number** and **call her cell number**: 208-866-5812

Sr. Kathleen Rachel and husband Dave have returned to Michigan. Their new address is:
3333 Ravenswood Rd. Lot #93, Marysville, MI 48040

Her cell phone stays the same. **Her preferred email address is: kldrjames@gmail.com**

Sr. Helen Joseph has a **new email address**: helenplenz@gmail.com



HAITI

Let us keep our loved ones in Haiti in our prayers. We hope that our Sisters, Brothers, Orphanages, Hospitals, Schools, children and all their people are safe and being cared for.

In the month of July, we were not able to ship water tablets to Haiti. But in August, we shipped one case of water tablets.

We continue to thank our entire Community for their love and support of our water project in Haiti. With all your devotion, we are able to continue shipping tablets to hopefully help in alleviating the spread of cholera and other diseases among their people.

As always, we thank Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley for her faithfulness in receiving and shipping out the water tablets to Haiti in a timely manner.

*Blessings and Peace,
Sr. Alexandra Francis*



FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

**NEW PRAYER COVENANT
MONASTERY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
GWERU, ZIMBABWE**

Important update from Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS

Dear WSHS / WBHS Community,

We are delighted to announce we have a new Prayer Covenant with the new Anglican Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Zimbabwe!

As you recall our original Prayer Covenant was dissolved when the Religious Community Chita che Zvipo Zve Moto in Gokwe Zimbabwe split. A more detailed announcement of this situation was in our August *Bulletin* 2019.

As I mentioned, Sr. Teresah, HSM and I have stayed in touch in hopes of forming a New Prayer Covenant with the new Community and I brought this request to our American Board of Directors at our yearly meeting August 29th at Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri. I am delighted to report the Board voted in favor of the new Prayer Covenant.

Additionally, with the Board's approval, I also brought this to our Chapter at our State of the Community Meeting Saturday, August 31st and the Chapter also voted in favor of this new Prayer Covenant.

It is with great joy I share this news!!

You will note at the start of our *Bulletin Prayer Requests* **“Monastery of the Holy Spirit – Gweru, Zimbabwe”**.

We have notified Sr. Teresah and the group and they too share our joy in this new special renewal!

Thanks be to God!
Sr. LaVerne Peter



NEWS NOTES

Sr. Kathleen Columb: In June James and I travelled to North Carolina since two of my granddaughters were graduating from high school. We had a good visit. My grandson Cameron graduated from high school, here in Branson, in May. I can't believe they are all eighteen and growing up. In August James and I traveled to Tulsa for my daughter-in-law's surprise fortieth birthday. At church we have started a free dinner once a month for people in the neighborhood. We are built in a residential neighborhood. It just started this summer. The first month we had a few folk but it has grown this past two months a little each month.

Sr. Paula Adelaide: I've been feeding my daughter's cats for a few days while she and her husband are out of town. It's an hour each way on the El, and I'm enjoying that uncommitted time in my day. It's good for reading, writing, thinking, and people-watching, which often leads to little "bless that person" arrow prayers.



SPIRITUAL SHARING

Jesus showed his humanity in his concern for women and children, the sick, the blind, and the crippled. He showed that he could be as angry as we can be when we can't get what we want when we want it. He cursed the fig tree. He was concerned for the welfare of his mother, when he gave her to his disciple, John, at the foot of the cross. Love for a dead friend, Lazarus, caused him to cry. Jesus probably had some disappointments with other people in his life and had to "keep going". I know that I can because He could.

I've been writing reflections for the Lay Worker packet, which didn't exist when I joined the Community in 1978. I send my reflections to Sr. Nancy Clare and we have a wonderful dialog going.

I have been praying about what God wants me to do in this retirement stage of life. I am encouraged by the following words: "If we let Christ take charge and we listen carefully for his direction, he will surely lead us into the work where we are needed and that we need for our own growth."—"The Covenant Prayer" by Keith Beasley-Topliffe

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.

One of my favorite stories is in Matthew 21-28. It shows Jesus' humanity by showing that Jesus was a product of his time. Jesus' turning away a woman's request to save her daughter because she was not a Jew shows the prejudice that was taught to the Jews of the time. In that instant, he was a man who was brought up to believe his people were the chosen ones, so his gifts were not for anyone else. The woman, through her faith, opened Jesus' eyes that all are blessed with God's gifts. This is a lesson that

is needed to be learned today because there is so much hate out there. We turn to others that are unlike us and consider them not worthy of our love. Jesus was put in his place by that woman. It opened his eyes and heart to others unlike himself. If only we can learn this lesson.

Eucharist is important to me. Eucharist is always where I feel healed, and refreshed, strengthened, and where I can bring my cares to the Lord and ask for strength and guidance, especially when I don't feel up to what He's calling me to do. When teaching, I always needed His strength and guidance. Eucharist is where I am fed; it's the touchstone of my faith. I've asked other people and they don't always need that, but for me I need to be fed and restored each week, I need to be given the clarity of purpose and vision, the companionship of the Lord in all my ways.

I focused on the wonderful humanity of Jesus and felt very much in agreement with something Fr. Bill Beachy said a long time ago: "Jesus was fully human and most of us haven't achieved that state yet." I believe that when Jesus came to us, he did indeed give up all divine power. That meant that he had to rely totally on the Holy Spirit and Scripture to learn and grow in love, power, and wisdom. He did sometimes experience human anger and even uncertainty in the case of his mission to non-Jews. He often had a bit of human frustration because of the slowness of others to grasp his message. I certainly saw the temptation in the wilderness as being a huge challenge. I'm not sure, even with the help of the Holy Spirit that I could have come through the temptations. But if we believe that he was able to deal with all the forces against God in that desert with the help of the Holy Spirit, the knowledge and faith in the Holy Scriptures, and prayer to the Father, then there is hope for us to become more fully human each day we live. We all have that spark of the divine within us, and we all have scripture and the Holy Spirit to support us. We don't need to strive to be exactly a copy of Jesus, but we

Summer is often a time of spiritual dryness. We go with different people to different places, and the daily routines are juggled. Many church programs take the summer off. My men's study group is always glad to have the warm months off, but the group is also glad to get together again in the fall.

On the formation of the Fruit of the Spirit in each one of us (from a reflection question in the Lay Worker program): "Challenges? Sitting down and writing! I'd rather be pondering the colors and shapes of the freshly made rounds of pigmented paper, looking for what they will become. What I like about them is that the color melds into the fibers of the paper, so that it becomes unified. Isn't that like the Holy Spirit unifying all the fruit into our very being? Here's a metaphor: When I make the paper, when it's wet and forming, I squeeze liquid pigment suspended in pulp onto the wet paper in various linear movements. The ones that I have layered with too many colors, that just look like a mess and overworked, when pressed and dried, all meld together, become softer, and actually become beautiful. (1) Everything softens and unifies, as the fibered pigment melds with the fibers of the paper. It's always a surprise how the ugliest sheets become beautiful when pressed together and dried. They move from wet pulpy masses to crisp flat paper — they go from becoming to being. All those disparate marks and colors become embedded and unified. In the simple ones (2) where I just make a few marks, it's the glow of the paper that comes through. In the busy ones, that soften and meld and unify, it's the potential for movement and energy that activates the image and tells me where to put the shapes."



FORMATION AND TRAINING

Jesus the Fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets

By

Sr. Nancy Clare, WSHS



The Jewish Jesus was steeped in Jewish scripture and tradition. Not only did Jesus not reject Jewish Law, but throughout his ministry he fulfilled the Law. His life was an example of someone fully in that tradition. He was a Jewish insider who upheld the law while arguing against some of the more legalistic methods and structures which prevented the full message of our loving God from reaching the hearts of those who needed to hear the full gospel – the good news of God’s love for them. In affirming God’s love for each one of us, he urged us to have that same heart of love towards our neighbor. This back and forth arguing over the meaning of Torah is a living tradition and has always been present in Jewish life. A modern Jew, Rabbi Kushner, says that Jews always argue with one another and that when they argue about Torah they are helping one another to become better Jews. Carl McColman, our Retreat Director this past spring, believes that taking the Jewish Jesus seriously will change how Christians relate to Jews, and begin the healing of one of Christianity’s deeper wounds, the rift with Judaism.

What we translate as “Law”, the Jewish Jesus translated as “a path to wisdom”, “a loving teaching”. Our Retreat Director drew a contrast between those who see the Law or Torah from a Roman legal viewpoint and those who see the Law as a wonderful way to uncover more and more of God’s love.

At Retreat we learned that many Jewish worshipers loved Torah and rejoiced in uncovering the thoughts of God in it. If the Jewish Jesus was considered radical in his times, he probably seemed radical to those who saw the Law from mainly a legal point of view. He may have also seemed radical to those who had not gotten below the surface in their faith tradition. We might say that similar views of Scripture or God’s Law are common today and that we too, if we really listen to Jesus’ message, might find it radical in the sense that it is a radical contrast to the world view that values “getting and spending” and power.

In my journey with this theme, I now feel comfortable saying that the Jewish Jesus was one who came to help us view more and more of that loving path that would lead to a life that was ultimately held in God’s loving embrace, a life that had moments of eternal truth within the actual embodied life. These moments of eternal truth point to the eternal life ahead in which we will dwell forever in God’s loving presence.

Though none of the Jewish prophets were God Incarnate as was Jesus, I see them as having powerful moments of being filled with God's Spirit – moments and times which enabled them to see a bit deeper and maybe a bit further on that path of Love. I believe these prophets clearly saw that path of love which might require justice but abounded in mercy. After journeying with the theme this year, I now see the Jewish Jesus, being fully human and fully God, and also as coming to us in the tradition of the Prophet or truth teller, very much in Jewish tradition.

And of course our Jewish Jesus would have, over the course of his thirty years, been gradually led more and more by the Holy Spirit to a fuller and more complete knowledge of his Loving Father. He was steeped in the traditions and prayers of his people and he would have known the Torah well, perceived the truths revealed in the Torah, and taught these truths in this Jewish tradition. But he would also have seen the inner wisdom of the kingdom and shared these deep and true insights with those who listened.

Born into a particular culture and time our Jewish Jesus would have used that particular human knowledge and insight to shape his message, whether in the stories and parables or the teachings such as the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer. His interpretation of the Torah would have allowed his listeners to receive heart knowledge of the path of love and forgiveness, suffering and vulnerability, true humility and increased faith in a loving Father who willed healing and wholeness.

Our Jewish Jesus would have fully entered into the worship of his time where dancing and celebrating with joyous action were common. He was fully human and fully God. He was also fully Jewish in his actions and words. The tradition of exploring, studying and then debating the Torah or Law was an intrinsic part of Jewish tradition and he fully took part in this tradition. He learned from others: from the temple priests, from other rabbi's and from ordinary people like the Syria-Phonetician woman whose daughter he eventually healed.

Our Jewish Jesus did not come to abolish the Law as he said, but to fulfill it. He revealed the Law to be a path of Love that led us to new life. How often do our churches need to seek renewal in order to pull us away from an overly legalistic reading of our faith? How often do our churches need a return to experiential and heart knowledge which leads to conversion of heart and humility and genuine growth in love? Re-interpretations or new ways of looking at old ways often brings us back to the essential and true in our faith – the truth that is known deep within, which no one can take from us.

If Jesus was radical in his day then he is just as radical in our day.

This kind of "knowing" allows us to fully live out our religious traditions – to see them afresh and to move forward in a more loving and merciful relationship with our God, ourselves and with others.

Questions for Reflection
Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS

1. Sr. Nancy Clare tells us that the Jewish Jesus translated the “Law” as “a path to wisdom”. I.E. an example re: Roman legal point of view or a wonderful way to uncover God’s love. How do you relate to that?

2. In this article we see Jesus as Fulfiller of the Law and also the Prophets. Sr. Nancy Clare has some excellent examples. Question: how do you see Jesus as the Fulfiller of the Law and the Prophets?

3. Sr. Nancy Clare shares that the Jewish Jesus would have entered into the worship of His time dancing, celebrating with joyous actions. Can you see Jesus dancing, laughing and then debating the Torah which was part of his life and yet, listening to ordinary people like the woman whose daughter was healed? Jesus: fully human and fully divine.

4. Sr. Nancy Clare ends her article with the words “If Jesus was radical in his day then he is just as radical in our day”. Take time to think about that and then share some thoughts that come to you.