

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



SACRAMENTAL
March 2026

Bulletin Cover - photo by J.M. Read - 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
March 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

March 28, 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
<u>In-person Corporate Communion</u>		
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 Deceember 2026**

**March 28 • April 25 • May 23 • June 27 • July 25 • August 22
September 26 • October 24 • ***November 21 • ***December 19**

Chapter Online Meeting – March 11, 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**

**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

- 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.



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.

Please use the existing liability and registration forms you have already received, and send them in no later than August 8, 2026.

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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS and REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Daylight Savings Time is scheduled to start on **March 8** 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. Thank you!



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I look with fondness at the cover of our community's December 2025 Bulletin. It's the photo of chapter. It has been quite a while since I've been to our Annual Retreat in St. Louis. I miss being in physical contact with WSHS/WBHS members.

This has been a month when I have stayed in more than usual due to icy weather. I've been buoyed by communication with those in formation. I came across the author, Margaret Guenther's, comments about play. She pointed out that perhaps it was not an accident there is only one letter difference between "play" and "pray." I have been reflecting on how more time for "play" can make my conversations with God more childlike. And when I "play" it lightens my spirit and makes more joy around me and more awareness of gratitude for all God provides. That helps balance out the challenges of changes around us since 2026 began, including the deaths of folks we have known.

I feel staying close to my parents is necessary not only for them but for me. I am feeling very protective of them. There is a sense of gratitude for all their help. They stayed close to me during my childhood and included me in their many adventures. I also had a strong sense of

security and belonging in my life. I always knew that they were in my corner. This coming fall their oldest grandson will be married! I want them both to be able to attend and enjoy the festivities if this means spending the extra time with them now so they can thrive later. That's where I want to be.

There is often not much we can do to alleviate suffering other than to listen and be present, not always easy for us to do as we have a natural impulse to somehow "make things better."

I am hoping I find more strength to continue to reach out in various ways to help homeless situations no matter how small, just contribute something.

I agree that true happiness or rather joy comes from making others happy. I really enjoy doing just that. To see joy or a smile on others' faces gives me more pleasure than receiving. Gifts, I would rather give than receive. Just like when I do something to help the environment, I gain pleasure from that. I have been using compostable bags as much as possible. Even bought them for the church. I am trying to be more conscious of what I use. I would like to change part of my yard into a low-water pollinator garden. Since we are looking at an abysmal water year, this may be the time. Stewardship is vitally important now and for the future. We are all made of star dust, from cockroaches(ughhh) to the land, to people. DNA bears out how closely related all organic life is.

Made in Your image.

All creation is connected

We must care for all life

At the beginning of the week I found a shirt that has needed a small mending job for years. And then I found more little mending jobs that have been waiting. As I started on the shirt I thought about all that needs "mending" in our world. So, I began to incorporate my prayer and conversation with God into my act of mending. I ask for the "mend-

ing” of divisions. And as I mended things, I thanked God for “mending” our world, our environment and those I know whose bodies are broken in some way. I continue to ask that I always see hope, always see where God is at work and that I notice how things are “on the mend.”



FORMATION AND TRAINING

Nature is Sacramental: Finding the Divine in the Dust By **Sr. Wendy Martha, WSHS**



“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God’s hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.” (Psalm 19:1-2)

In the traditional liturgical sense, a sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. We think of the water in the font, the bread on the paten, and the wine in the chalice. But if we limit God’s “signature” to the walls of a sanctuary, we miss the cathedral of the cosmos. To say that nature is sacramental is to acknowledge that the world is not a collection of objects we own, but a series of subjects through which God speaks.

The World as a “Window”

A sacrament does two things: it reveals and it connects. When we look at the natural world through a sacramental lens, a forest is no longer

just “lumber” and a river is no longer just “hydroelectric potential.” They become icons – windows into the character of the Creator.

- **The Humility of Soil:** In the complex cycle of decay and growth, we see the Paschal Mystery — life coming out of death.
- **The Generosity of Light:** The sun shines on the just and the unjust alike, a daily reminder of Common Grace.
- **The Interconnectedness of Roots:** Romans 12:4-5 “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

A word that was new to me as I studied “Nature is Sacrament” is “mycelial.” These are the networks under the forest floor of fungus, rotting and decay that mirror the “Body of Christ,” where the health of one depends on the flourishing of the whole. The mycelium metaphor is particularly strong because it provides a scientific “how” to the spiritual “what.” It shows that God’s design for the Church (interdependence) was actually written into the soil long before we arrived.

From Dominion to Communion

For too long, a “dominion” theology has been used as a hall pass for exploitation. If the earth is sacramental, then polluting a river isn’t just a policy failure, it is a form of desecration. If elements of the earth (wheat and grape) are holy enough to become the Eucharist, then the earth that produces them must be treated with a corresponding reverence. We are called to be priests of creation, lifting the world to God in thanksgiving, rather than consumers who merely strip it bare.

Job 12:7-9 “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?”

A Call to “Holy Seeing”

The environmental crisis is, at its root, a crisis of perception. We have stopped seeing the world as a gift. To reclaim a sacramental view of nature is to practice a “holy seeing.” When we protect a species or restore a habitat, we aren’t just doing “science.” We are preserving a unique way in which God chooses to be known. We are protecting the “visible signs” of God’s eternal grace.

If nature is God’s “First Book,” then studying and protecting the environment is an act of listening to the Creator. When we allow a species to go extinct or a landscape to be ruined, we are essentially losing a “chapter” of how God has chosen to reveal God’s Self to the world.

Here are three ways ordinary people can respond to the environmental crisis through a sacramental lens:

1. Practice “Eucharistic” Consumption

The word Eucharist literally means “thanksgiving.” In a consumer culture, we often take without asking. To respond sacramentally:

- Reduce Waste: If the earth is a gift, then wasting its resources is a form of ingratitude. Composting, for example, is a direct way to participate in the “Paschal Mystery” of turning death (food scraps) back into life (fertile soil).
- One of the best responses to the environmental crisis is simply to stop. Refuse to use plastic water bottles.

2. Cultivate Local “Sacred Spaces”

You don’t need to save a rainforest to be a steward; you can start with your own zip code.

- Native Planting: Replace a patch of lawn with native plants. This supports the local “mycelial unity” and provides a habitat for the creatures God called “good.”

3. Reclaim the Sabbath for Creation

- The Sabbath Rest: The Sabbath was created for the land as

well as for people. By resting from consumption for one day a week, we acknowledge that the world belongs to God and doesn't depend on our productivity.

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. If we believe that even the dust is divine, then how would it change the way we walk beside our local river or nearest park?
2. The "Wood Wide Web" shows that trees support one another. How can our church/community better mirror this hidden, supportive connection in our care for the environment?
3. Which "Chapter" of the Book of Nature (a specific animal, plant, or landscape) do you feel most called to protect?