

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



SEEKING GOD/OUR JOURNEYS
September 2025

Bulletin Cover

Sharing the Eucharist at Retreat is one of the highlights of our time together. We are blessed to be able to do this.

.....
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

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
Community Marketing Group, LLC, Publisher Port Huron, MI Copyright 2025	
Illustrations by M. Lourdes Vinas, O.S.B. from Our Father St. Benedict Sr. M. Regina Goberna, O.S.B. (New City Press, NY, 1983) Reprinted with permission	



CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS
September 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

September 27, 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
--------------------------	-------------------------	-----

REGIONAL GATHERING/CORPORATE COMMUNION DATES

*****NOTE DATE CHANGE from 4th Saturday to 3rd Saturday in December 2025**

September 27 • October 25 • November 22 • *December 20**

Chapter Online Meeting – Sept. 10, 2025

Chapter In-Person Meeting – Oct. 2-5, 2025 at Conception Abbey

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:

With sadness, we have just learned about the death of **Sr. Susan Gabriel, WSHS**. She passed away on May 15. We are so very thankful for the life of Sr. Susan Gabriel and her presence in our Community. May she be flying with God's holy angels including her life partner.

If you have a memory of Sr. Susan to share with the Community, please email it to Sr. Christine at casturges@gmail.com. Your memories will be compiled into an article of remembrance for a future bulletin.

Green Sheets/Photo Directory

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.

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



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**

From Marya - On My Journey This summer!

The Saints have fascinated me through the years. Their stories are usually not even close to mine, but their persistence in loving and serving the Lord somehow inspire me to love and serve the Lord in my own way. I've re-connected to a few this summer.

St. Benedict, Feast Day July 11

Of course, he was the founder of the monastic movement in 6th century. The charism he had was to read the signs of the times. Earlier monks had stressed rigorous asceticism and self-denial, living alone out in the desert away from all others. Benedict turned from that style of life to one closer to what we live. Community, connection, ordinary people. His form of discipline shifted from externals to the interior. In place of fasting and mortification, Benedict substituted the discipline of humility, obedience, and accommodation to community life. Rather than a collection of individuals competing in the quest for perfection, Benedict stressed the role of community as a school for holiness, a balance of work and prayer!

Just what we lean on one another in this community for... support, balance, love among ordinary human beings from all over our earth. We don't even have to live in the same place to form community. Yet we come together in annual retreat and in monthly gatherings. Benedict would have been thrilled by our zoom gatherings and monthly sharing by email (or snail mail)! St. Benedict, live within us as we live our commitment in WSHS and WBHS. Morning, noon, night!

St. Kateri Tekakwitha "Lily of the Mohawks" Feast Day July 14

Kateri was born in 1656 near present-day Auriesville, New York. Her mother, a captured Algonquin, was a Christian, while her father, a Mohawk chief, viewed the new religion with suspicion. When Kateri was four, both parents died from smallpox. Kateri survived smallpox, but her scarred face showed the marks of it which also darkened her vision, causing her to stumble in the light. Her people began to call her Tekakwitha—"the one who walks groping her way." When a Jesuit missionary arrived in her village when she was 18, she requested baptism. She was given the name Kateri—a Mohawk version of Katherine. Her conversion was not accepted by her community, so she traveled two hundred miles on foot to a mission near Montreal. Though now free to practice her faith, she was still forced to grope her way in a world that supplied no clear models. She didn't feel called to marriage, but religious life wasn't available. She eventually made a public vow of chastity. Shortly after that at the age of twenty-three, she fell ill and died. "I must give myself to Jesus. He must be my only love."

Kateri must be helping my dear friend, Donna, who with a tinge of dementia, became disoriented one night in her home in March, fell down a flight of steps. Injured, but alive. Multiple injuries to head, neck, face, the whole right side. She has had to "walk, groping her way" through hospital, rehab hospital, rehab assisted living, and eventually assisted living. Still groping now with trips to dentist & eye doctor, wearing neck collar, procedures with hip and knee, etc. I am walking beside a woman who is giving herself over to God, challenged with knowing she can't return to her home or to driving. That hasn't stopped her.... She is becoming such a force in the assisted living place that she is now assisting others in their adjustment to changes in their lives.

And it seems some in our community are "groping their way" through illnesses, aging, disappointments, lonely journeys. And others in our community are standing with those they can in person and all of us in loving thought and prayer. St. Kateri, thanks for being with us through all our groping ways.

Saints among us!

Our parish has a bible study every other Friday morning! That means it's mostly retired people...or a few who have flexible work schedules! Usually, we don't continue in the summer, but some 28 of them wanted to continue. So we have been studying the "Parables of Jesus." (Threshold Bible Studies from Twenty-Third Publications, author Stephen Binz).

A challenge was given at the first session in June to come up with our own version of a parable by any means comfortable to us...writing, drawing, singing, dancing, etc! After several weeks, it is now coming to fruition! Wow! Last session we had someone playing the piano and singing a song that is dear to her.... all about "We are seeds...in God's hands."

Another one wrote new words to the tune of "The Wellerman" which is a very upbeat sea-faring type song, with new words for the Parable of the Ten Virgins! And why did she do this? Because on a 16-hour driving trip to Canada with two grandsons they played and sang "The Wellerman" several times a day. Here's the Refrain she wrote.

*There once was a tale of a wedding feast;
This feast, it was at night.
Ten ladies went to meet the groom,
But would their lanterns light?*

There are Six Verses too!

Another lady wrote a lengthy autobiography about being the lost sheep and finding her way back to the church flock through the Friday morning flock of sheep!

What a community of talented believers we belong to in WSHS and WBHS! People on Chapter who keep envisioning this community, those who put the bulletin together every month, people who lead our monthly zooms, leaders abound in many facets of regions and committees, those who pray and those who write and those who spread the word about our community. Saints among us!

What's happening on your journey, friends and companions? Send a part of your story to Marya. We know we can't tell everything, but just tell one part of how God has led or is leading you!



SPIRITUAL SHARING

Today I am busy getting things ready for Book Club tomorrow. I am hostess this month and will provide Morning Tea (or Coffee) and gluten free brownies and some sandwiches, We have a time of chatting and catching up and then I provide questions - downloaded from the internet - and we discuss the book. This month I chose Stone Yard Devotional, by Charlotte Wood. It is a lovely book about reflections on reflections! I look forward to hearing the varying viewpoints that the ladies share.

I am drawn to the contemplative, evocative style of worship and prayer and have found the loneliness can be changed to silence and solitude, which really help my anxiety and depression. In fact, if I am too busy one week, I can feel exhausted and need to be alone for a time. So different from my younger self, who was busy with family, church, friends etc.

Duncan has a tumor in his right parotid gland; a large, secondary skin cancer from a previous cancer on his face. I am feeling frustrated with the delays of a regional centre. However, things will unfold as they should. I will stay as long as I am needed, which could be some weeks. Over a week ago Duncan ended up in hospital with a very high fever. He had campylobacter infection. No one knows how he caught it. Anyway, as I had planned to come up for his surgery, I just came earlier.

I have so much to be thankful for in life and my daily walks with the Lord are very special for me. I am aware of my many shortcomings, but I know God accepts me as I am.

I would not call it a "stretch" to see God active in people to whom we are associated one way or another. In my situation, I see God in the Community members I connect with and talk to each month. Also, in my day-to-day activities, I see God at work all around.

I have heard of people who actively look for God in the people they encounter and in what they experience each day. Such an ability is a blessing and must have a positive effect on those you meet. And our Community gives us a setting where we can be at our best. That's good, too.

I walk daily with my little dog, Nellie, about 2.5 miles. This is to keep us both healthy and active. Although, sometimes when it's too hot, like today, there is no walking. It was already 85 degrees at 5:30am! I meet several neighbors during my walks and we socialize as we walk. It's important to keep mentally sharp to continue being around family and your friends and neighbors. It helps to keep your lifespan healthy and going on a long time with joy and happiness.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

Seeking God: Our Journeys

By
Br. David, WBHS



Br. David, WBHS, lives in Peterborough, Ontario. He was admitted as a Lay Worker in 1983. Br. David is a member of Chapter.

I was on two selection committees at St. Barnabas, in the years prior to its closing. The first time we selected a wonderful Priest, who became a good friend and he went on to build up the Church over his time as Rector. The second time, however, was after Eugene retired. We only had one applicant, but the Committee selected the interim Priest, who was also near retirement. It started out okay, but the Church went downhill, unfortunately, and the Bishop made the decision to close the Church. The building is now host to a Community Church that seems to be doing quite well. After the closing we started to attend St. James regularly and we are continuing to do so.

I grew up in St. Barnabas and I recall the Church meeting in a school room. I would attend the day before with my father to set up all the chairs for the service. The church then moved to a portable building where I started as an acolyte and finally

moved to the new building where it is today, although now a Community Church. I continued as an acolyte and became involved in "Anglican Young Peoples."

Over the next few years, I started working and then married and we moved to Nicaragua for two years while I worked for Falconbridge Nickel. It was during my time in Nicaragua that I received my first Lay Minister's licence from the Episcopal Bishop of Central America.

When we returned to Canada, I began working for 2 smaller companies, but it was ten years before we finally returned to Peterborough and we began attending St. Barnabas once again. After a few years I received my Lay Minister's Licence. I also was invited to join the WSHS/WBHS Community by Sr. Carol Matthew.

I was in the Community for 13 years and I thought I was doing okay but I did not enjoy the Retreats. (At that time, it was held in Canada every third year.) I attended when it was in Canada but I did not enjoy them.

As I wasn't really active in the Community, I received a letter from Sr. Shirley Amos who was then the Canadian Director. The letter basically told me to do "something", either become active in the Community or leave!

Needless to say, I was somewhat upset at the letter and wrote back that I was too busy with other things and I did not like being told to do something or leave. However, the following week I was kneeling and praying in Church on that Sunday. I was asking God if I should just pack it all in and leave the Community.

I heard God speak to me clearly and tell me to just try one more Corporate Communion and he would look after everything. I felt much happier about the Community after that and I began looking forward to the next Corporate Communion.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, the day of the Corporate Communion began with a freezing rain storm and Corporate Communion was canceled. However, I found that I was looking forward to the next Corporate Communion even more. The next month as I drove to the Corporate Communion, I was singing to God all the way. This Corporate Communion was the darkest pressing Corporate Communion that I think I ever attended. But it didn't bother me at all, as I sang to God all the way home and from that day until Covid, I never missed a Retreat and I became much more active in the Community. Unfortunately, health and age are causing problems now but I still enjoy the Community and I thank God for allowing me

to be part of this wonderful organization and enjoying all the wonderful Sisters, Brothers, Workers, Companions and Friends. Thanks be to God for all His wonderful blessings.

Thank you so much Br. David, 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. Reflect on the role that Sr. Shirley Amos played in speaking boldly to Br. David at a time when he was content to be a non-participant in our community. Have you someone in your life who has played a similar role in your re-engaging on your spiritual journey, not necessarily related to community but perhaps in some other aspect of your spiritual life? And conversely have you played that role in the life of someone else? Reflect and share.

2. Br. David shares honestly about his initial defensive feeling around the letter he received from Sr. Shirley Amos, but then he took the matter to prayer and he trusted that God's Spirit was leading him. Share about a time when you felt the nudging of the Spirit to disengage or reengage in a commitment that you made along the way to grow spiritually.

3. Living and growing means continual change, with our roles changing as we age. It's no different in WSHS/WBHS. Reflection and re-engagement may be just what we need at this time to refresh our original vision of being a vital part of this spiritual community. If we feel a bit stale, then perhaps we need to re-engage in a way that is meaningful and possible for us at this time in our lives, as a way to reclaim some of that original joy and connection.

Take some time to reconsider the commitment you made as a member of our Community. All important relationships need to be revitalized from time to time to keep them fresh, relevant and meaningful to us. Perhaps by once more re-engaging and reaching out to our sisters and brothers, we are more likely to experience the blessings of community, giving and receiving support, encouragement and wisdom with one another, as we journey together through life. What are your thoughts?

4. Those who have offered to mentor a new Applicant have almost always shared that they were so blessed in this process. If you enjoy meaningful one-on-one with someone, this might be a way of re-engaging. Those mentored benefit from a warm welcome, encouragement and support while those who Mentor often find a renewed sense of the importance of our Community and its Rule. Reflect on how you might re-connect and if this might be one way that appeals to you. If this role or another idea to re-engage comes to you in your reflection, let Sr. Nancy Clare, our Director of Formation and Training, know of your desire to re-connect in this way or in another way. We will welcome you with open arms.

RETREAT 2025



Greetings from our Retreat Director Sr. Shirley Evangeline



Bishop Riscylla Shaw is delighted to join us. She is Introduced by our Prioress Sr. Wendy Samuel



Sr. Nancy Clare - Director of Formation and Training and Mentors, present Certificates to members who have completed their training this past year. Left to right: Sr. Anna Joshua - Mentor, Sr. Wendy Martha - Mentor, Patricia Cashman, Sara Hornor, Sr. Nancy Clare



Viewing Christianity through a Buddhist Lense. Our Presenter - Douglas Anning (Son of Sister Jacquie Elizabeth)



Installation of our Newest Friends Bob Hoopingarner, Douglas Anning and Bishop Riscylla Shaw



Installation of Lay Workers Sara Hornor and Pat Cashman with their Mentors
Sr. Anna Joshua and Sr. Wendy Martha
Blessings by Sr. Wendy Samuel (Prioress) and Sr. Brenda Faith (Community Chaplin)



Left to right: Bishop Riscylla, Pat Cashman
Sara Hornor, Bob Hoopingarner, Doug Anning

Praying and working together during our Retreat Sessions led by Doug Anning



We were Blessed to be joined on Zoom for those unable to be with us in person.
Marilyn Propp, Jacquie Chinnery, Sr. Bettie Susanna, Melanie Tobeyak
Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley, Pam Winn.

Also joining us over the weekend but not shown in this photo were Christopher Creech (Applicant),
Br. David and Sr. LaVerne Peter



Gathering and Worshipping Together



Sari Jn-Francois, Sr. Anna Joshua,
Pat Cashman, Sr. Arnitta Monica



Cathy Gardener (Applicant), Sr. Diane Richard,
Sr. Nancy Teresa, Sr. Anna Joshua, Sr. Paula
Adelaide, Sitting: Sr. Arlie Mirren, Sr. Linda Thomas



Sr. Wendy Martha, Bishop Riscylla, Sr. Patsy Anne



Sr. Deborah, Erin Diericx



Blessing of Community
at our Healing Service



Our Worship Leaders
Sr. Catherine Marie and
Br. Peter Nicholas. Celebrated
50 years of Marriage this year!



Our Prioress Sr. Wendy Samuel



Sr. Linda Thomas



We are the Feet



Our Prioress before the Memorial Service and Taize Service



Sr. Christine Stephanie Rizutto



Sr. Christine, Janine Robbins



Sr. Lucia, Sr. Alexandra Francis, Sr. Nancy Teresa, Cathy Gardner



Retreat 2025