

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



SEEKING GOD/OUR JOURNEYS
June 2025

Bulletin Cover ~ Retreat Photo 2025

IWe were blessed to be able to gather once again for Retreat at The Mercy Center in St. Louis. It was a prayerful gathering and shared with those who could Zoom with us, to learn about Christianity through a Buddhist Lens. Doug Anning shared his life with us.

More photos and a summary of our experiences to come in a future Bulletin.

.....
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
June 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

June 28, 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**
June 28 • July 26 • August 23
September 27 • October 25 • November 22 • *December 20**

Chapter Meets Online: June 11, 2025 @ 1pm EST

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:

Birthdays & Communion of Saints List Update

A current copy of the Birthdays & Communion of Saints List is included with this Bulletin. Print a copy if that is helpful to you.

You are encouraged to explore our WSHS/WBHS website. Check it out! To view the online Photo Directory using your internet browser:

- 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



FROM OUR CHAPLAIN: SR BRENDA FAITH

I was born into the Southern Baptist Church, and that is all I knew. That was the Truth for me. I was fed on the word, and we were at church no matter what; being drenched in the judgment of Almighty God continually. Where was the Love, Compassion, Forgiveness? I was so afraid that I would die and go to hell because I wasn't ever sure of my salvation. I "came by faith" because of that fear on July 2, 1961, and was baptized on August 11, 1961, at the age of eight, because I was so afraid of the consequences of not doing so.

My mother was a strong Christian woman and always tried to comfort and to encourage me. I thank God for her, and I always prayed and longed for the kind of faith that she possessed, so I hung on her every word. She was such a Woman of God, and I knew no one that could compare to her. I was big on "works" because at least I could do something, hoping to gain salvation from hell. My father was a good daddy who provided well for us, but I do remember, as a child, that he would tell me to "be good, or Daddy won't love you." I realize that he said this out of fear himself, so I don't blame him for the words. However, it must have been hurtful, because my drive to be good was very strong, and that drive seems to affect me still.

In that little Southern Baptist Church, I remember preachers other than the evangelical, fire and brimstone type. They seemed to speak with softer words and have more compassion and love in their sermons delivered from the pulpit. They helped me through my challenging teenage years, when it is most difficult to "be good," and when the world pulls hardest from every direction. These ministers used a different style of presentation of God's good news.

Off to college fun, fun, fun. Although I didn't do anything awful, I enjoyed brand new freedom. I continued in church. The second of the kinder preachers became a mentor for me. He was "feelings-oriented," and I could certainly relate to someone like him. In his sermons, he shared his humanity with us. He was also a psychology professor and understood the importance of being real to his congregation.

I met Howard during my last year at USM. He was faithful to his church, The Church of the Ascension in Hattiesburg, and liked the “hip, with it, cool” priest there. Feeling it was important to worship together, I tried the Episcopal Church. Wow! What a great feeling! I loved everything about it. Howard quickly let me know that he was never ever going to become Southern Baptist. Therefore, it was not hard to accept a new “Christian cloak” when we were married, because I believed that we were meant to worship together. Then when children came into our lives, we would raise them, together, in the same church. The Episcopal Church is so loving and accepting, I thought, “maybe this was what church should be.”

I continued to drench myself in regular Bible study and church activity. As our three children came along, I did everything I could to make sure they were raised to know God and seek His plan for their lives. They had many different experiences in the church as we moved from place to place because of Howard’s military career. These experiences exposed them to a wide variety of Anglican influences. All of them were good for their Christian growth. Most importantly, they were raised to know God loved them unconditionally.

In 1981, I was introduced to The Worker Sisters/Brothers of the Holy Spirit, a community of our church that offers women and men, regardless of marital status, a path for individual spiritual growth through a life commitment to a Rule. It was a new community founded by Sr. Angela, a former Episcopal nun. There I also received unconditional love, and this love helped me to grow and understand that we were meant to live and love producing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. Naturally, this allowed a spiritual life without fear, and I was thrilled that I was led to eventually take on a deeper commitment as Sr. Brenda Faith.

I must mention the importance that spiritual song has been to me. My mother had much to do with that. She was a church musician. She played the piano, organ, and sang all the time. She felt deeply about the words she sang; they were real to her. They were a significant part of her worship and an essential part of her prayer. Naturally, music has become the same for me. Although I am not a musician like my mother, much of my spirituality is expressed in music. Therefore, it is natural for me to be drawn to the desires and yearnings I find in the Psalms, and I realize why they are important to our worship. The words of the hymns and psalms speak clearly to me words of comfort, compassion, confession, thanksgiving, and praise, but most of all, LOVE.

Since I was married in 1974, the Episcopal Church has been my home. I found love, compassion, and open-armed acceptance, which I had hungered for during my younger years. It has taken a long time to heal the wounds of my childhood because I felt I would never be good enough to receive forgiveness. Now I live by Grace and Faith; and good works, although important, are not what saves me. My salvation is a free gift from God paid for by Christ's willingness to give his life for me. The people that God put in place along the way that have influenced me most are those that showed me the Love and Forgiveness that God tried to reveal to humanity through His Son Jesus Christ. That's Good News! That's what I want to share with others.

Finally, I can't write an honest autobiography without mentioning the mental collapse that I experienced in October of 2001. It was very traumatic for me, but it was even more traumatic for my family. I zoned out, so at that time, I was unaware of the effect that this had on those who loved me. It was a surprise, although thinking back on it there were several days that I knew something wasn't right. I was working on setting up for a rummage sale at our church. It was a minor responsibility for me that my brain interpreted as overwhelming, and it became the "last straw." I asked the ladies around me to call Howard because something was wrong. The only way I can describe the feeling I had was that nothing seemed real. I felt out of my body. Howard came and took me to the Emergency Room. He told me later that I had to look at my hospital bracelet to tell them my birthdate. After being medically checked out, Howard admitted me to Pine Belt Mental Hospital. I remember the first night I was put in a special room, and I lay on the bed all night holding the cross on my necklace, trying to hold on to what was left of reality for me, and praying God would bring me back to normalcy. After starting anxiety meds, I came around very quickly and only stayed one night in that "generic" room. I spent almost two weeks in the Mental Hospital. They released me a day or so early, so I could be home on my birthday. I had been on an antidepressant a few years before this, but I thought I didn't need it anymore. After this happened, I haven't been off Wellbutrin since. I'm so very grateful that the Lord and my family helped me to get through this very difficult time in my life. I was praying one day asking the Lord why I had that severe bout of depression in 2001. Immediately, in my next thought, I heard Him say, "Brenda, you've been depressed your whole life."

Why did this happen to me when it did? My best answer is that I had lost my dear mother back in 1993, and soon after our family moved back home (in 1997) af-

ter many years of living away, it became real to me that she was gone. She was my rock, my encourager, my best friend, the one person that I thought loved me unconditionally. There was absolutely nothing I could do to lose her love for me, and she was gone. It's still hard to be without her, but I realize God is my anchor now. I take much consolation in knowing that her spirit is near, and she prays for my family and me. It is Mother's love that helped me to understand the depth of my Heavenly Father's Love. Therefore, I have finally realized God's Love for me is eternal. He has given me a beautiful family who loves me, and I am grateful for my life and the abundant blessings that are mine.

Now I must add another phase to the telling of my journey. In 2012, I felt a call to discern the priesthood after hearing from our bishop that he had no priest options for our little church in Collins, Mississippi. We did not want our St. Elizabeth's to dissolve, so, Howard and I started researching options. How was I to proceed with this call?

After a period of discernment, a change in bishops, and a couple years of EFM while I was waiting the process began. I was very fortunate that our diocese had already begun a bi-vocational deaconate program and was also considering a presbyter track with the Iona Collaborative out of The Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, TX. In 2016 I began a three-year study toward becoming a bi-vocational priest. Our diocesan school is called the A. C. School of Formation and now encompasses Mississippi and a nearby diocese of Louisiana.

Sr. LaVerne Peter was ecstatic! She encouraged me all through my studies and supported me in every way. Well, amazingly I made it to transitional diaconate and then to the priesthood only by God's Good Grace every step of the way and encouragement from others.

That's how I ended up becoming the WSHS/WBHS Chaplain. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve our Community in this respect. Our WSHS/WBHS community has helped me so much with my journey and contributed tremendously to my spiritual growth. I am grateful!!! Thanks be to God for Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit!



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I was able to join in the Zoom connection for Retreat, but I found it difficult. The topic did not really connect with me. However it was wonderful to see so many Community members together. I was disappointed that I could not attend in person. I certainly miss attending Retreats, though I do look forward to the monthly meetings on Zoom.

Presenting Buddhist principles at a Christian Retreat was a bit of a stretch, I'll admit. But for me, it was helpful to look at some of our scriptures from a different angle. It brought new meaning and some new insights into what Jesus was trying to teach his disciples and the Pharisees.

I don't think I'll be doing a lot of physical tai chi stuff myself. My heart and brain can get on board without the physical movement, I believe.

We're doing OK. Wanted to come to Retreat this year, but it just wasn't to be. I'm grateful for the Saturday session I did manage to log into. So happy to see everyone and share time and prayers.

I believe God is growing me into being a better friend; teaching me to be the giver and not always the taker. Whether it is helping to paint a home, elder-sitting a mom, walking or babysitting a dog, cooking and sharing my food with neighbors who wouldn't be eating if I didn't; I'm happy in this new role I am in. I am blessed to be where I am in life right now.

I have resumed my teaching of English as a Second Language at the Ruggieri Senior Center. My classes are getting larger; however, I'm running out of materials to use for instruction. I solicit your prayers that I may come up with more ideas.

We had a good Easter. Made it to Maundy Thursday service and Easter Sunday. I am so liking our church. The people are friendly, the minister is young and modern and talks at our level. She is going on a 4-month sabbatical and I for one will deeply miss her. I feel so much more involved in my spiritual life. We had a very good Lenten book study. We read *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

Seeking God: Our Journeys
By
Sr. Shirley Evangeline, WSHS



Sr. Shirley Evangeline, WSHS lives in Springfield, Missouri. She was admitted as a Lay Worker in 2014. Sr. Shirley is our Worker and Novice Coordinator. She is also serving as our Western Provincial.

I was born and raised in the Roman Catholic faith, which I was so very fervent about in my youth in my innocence. I attended parochial schools whether in Kansas, Michigan or Missouri. I was gifted with many opportunities to excel in, which I think we all begin with. I dabbled in music, dance, painting (with Bob Ross), architecture, writing and acting. I think you might call me a “Jack of all trades, Master of none.” My favorite subject in school was Government.

Then I went off to the big city of Kansas City, MO to study Business. While in college, I met and fell in love with an Iranian man. Young love and so full of hope. My parents, especially Dad, could not understand where their daughter’s head was and continued to delay the announcement of our engagement. I thought I was so much in love, was so naive about our differences, and praying so hard for God’s help. Dad asked me to come home for a week. I still remember him sitting on the fireplace stoop, me sitting on the couch and him trying so hard to understand. One Sunday, upon leaving Mass, to this day, I remember standing on that top step and asking God “what am I going to do?” My answer, heard very clearly, “you cannot hurt these people who love you so much.” So back to KC I go, break off the relationship, and continue to try to destroy myself in every way possible; emotionally, physically, mentally. As I look back over that time I had lost all respect or love for this person, this body God had created.

After graduation I accepted a very rewarding and interesting position as an Executive Secretary in a successful financial institution. I was doing quite well in my professional life but that personal life was another story. Becoming pregnant out of wedlock in the 60's meant losing all income, all insurance, any form of stability. I did pray. I did ask for God's help - AGAIN. However, there was always that underlying conscience saying "you don't deserve His consideration."

I continued to excel in my professional life in roles as Assistant Credit Manager, VP Personnel Manager, night shift Personnel Manager at Butterball (with all those turkeys), craft shop owner, Administrative Executive Secretary, National Certified Water Fitness Instructor, Pool Manager, Haitian Missionary, Librarian, however, that personal side could only be described as a disaster. I feel I do need to add these jobs covered 57 years of my life. I did not change frequently and was very devoted and loyal offering to be the best that I could be.

The personal downside - three marriages - three catastrophes. Was I just a glutton for punishment? I think I was just looking for love and finding it in all the wrong places. God was letting me learn an awful lot of lessons, I guess, to become stronger and to persevere in the love He offered to me which reminds me so much of what I am learning in my EFM studies on the Old Testament and the Israelites struggles.

All of my professional positions put me in a place to help others but I was not helping myself. In 1994 I was diagnosed with breast cancer and if He was ready for me I was ready to go. However, my older daughter knew I would rather die than go through another divorce and she said to me "Mom, if you are trying to take the easy way out, I am going to be very angry with you." I needed to find my courage. It was not my time.

Around 2010 I met Sr. Margie Veronica along with her infamous "tell me your story." In sharing my story with members of Grace Episcopal Church, Carthage, I noticed I always referred to professional accomplishments negating those personal failures. I have two beautiful, accomplished daughters who both are filled with heart filled love to give back in their lives. I learned to change my story around and speak the thankfulness I feel in them.

Sr. Margie Veronica introduced me to the Worker Sisters/Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit Community and here I have experienced the becoming, the discovery, the relating, the commitment, the mission I think I have been searching for all my

life. It took God a little while to get me here. My whole being is so full of thankfulness.

The mountains and valleys of life have been many. I am still here; apparently still have purpose. I'm ready for the next challenge and with God's help "bring it on!"

Thank you so much Sr. Shirley Evangeline, 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. To quote a part of Sr. Shirley's journey about a time when she was very low and vulnerable. "As I look back over that time I had lost all respect or love for this person, this body God had created", not all of us may have experienced this feeling of unworthiness, but often the messages from our early church beliefs have hindered our ability to realize the immense love God has for us. We often see God as the "judge", the "punisher for our own good but still a punisher" or in some other way that is not helpful to a healthy self-image. Can you relate to Sr. Shirley's difficulty of not being able to see herself as worthy of love and dignity? Are you able today to see yourself as someone beloved of God who deserves love and blessings? How did this healthier view of self evolve for you and if not, what is needed for you to make this transition to one of knowing you are loved unconditionally? Often this sense of unconditional love leads to an overflow of gratitude which Sr. Shirley is experiencing today.

2. Reflect upon the choice Sr. Shirley made when she found she had breast cancer. Because of her daughters, she made the choice to persevere on her journey. Who in your life has given you the desire to take the best next step? Family? A good friend? A favorite spiritual author? An experience of God's love at a moment of despair? Ponder and reflect.

3. Sr. Shirley mentions meeting our beloved Sr. Margie Veronica and responding by "telling Sr. Margie her story" and later by allowing her new church in Carthage to be a safe place to grow, and also by applying to this WSHS community. Reflect on how important one person can be in our spiritual journey. Is there someone from your journey whom you will always remember as being pivotal for you?

Ponder on your time with WSHS/WBHS and reflect on how you have grown in self-love and self-respect. Has this journey led you to more gratefulness, enabling you to become the healthy servant of others that Jesus asks of us? How have you experienced that loving ourselves in a good way enables us to love and serve others more meaningfully?

4. Sr. Shirley has been willing to share her vulnerability in humility, truth and sincerity. This kind of sharing is powerful as it invites all of us to be more open when we share in our safe spaces. Please consider sharing with Sr. Christine for the *Bulletin* some of your story as it may be a powerful message from someone who needs to hear just what you have to share.