

THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



BULLETIN



THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



SEEKING GOD/OUR JOURNEYS
December 2025

Bulletin Cover - Fall Chapter 2025

Back Row: Sr Wendy Martha, Sr Catherine Marie, Sr Nancy Clare, Marilyn Propp, Br Peter Nicholas, Sr Patsy Anne, Sr Nancy Teresa, Sr Christine, Sr Alexandra Francis

Front Row: Sr Brenda Faith, Sr Deborah, Sr Wendy Samuel, Sr Kathleen Rachel, Sr Carol Matthew
(Chapter members praying for us but not at Fall Chapter: Sr. LaVerne Peter, Br. David)

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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
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Sr. Shirley Evangeline, WSHS	Proof Reader
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Sr. Deborah, WSHS	Co-Director
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CALENDAR

**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS
REGIONAL GATHERINGS
December 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

December 20, 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 December 2025: December 20th**

***** NOTE DATE CHANGE from 4th Saturday to 3rd Saturday in November and Deceember 2026**

**January 24 • February 28 • March 28 • April 25
May 23 • June 27 • July 25 • August 22**

September 26 • October 24 • *November 21 • ***December 19**

Chapter Online Meeting – December 10, 2025
Retreat 2026 at Mercy Center – April 30 - May 3, 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**

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit Anniversary of our Founding

In December we celebrate the **53rd Anniversary of the founding of Workers Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.**

For those who are alone, please read this Service of Recommitment in a quiet place where you can take time to offer thanksgiving for this special Community to which we belong.

As we prepare to renew our commitment to our Community, let us take a moment to reflect on what our commitment is.

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit

The Worker Life Commitment (This includes Sisters and Brothers) from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service

I commit myself for life to a covenant relationship with God through the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit. I hold as essential to our Rule, Mission, and Community Life, our fourfold commitment. I therefore dedicate myself to Jesus Christ, to the Fruit of the Spirit, to Mission and to Ministry.

From the Table of Contents of the Rule of Life for Lay Workers

- Daily Personal Prayer
- Daily Communal Prayer
- Daily Reading of the Sacred Scriptures
- Daily Participation in an Act of the Fruit of the Spirit
- Receive Communion Weekly (if available)
- Monthly Communication with the Community by Letter
- Monthly Financial Contribution to the Community
- Continue active participation in the life of the Community, the church and the world

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit

The Companion Commitment from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service

A Companion is a person under a Rule of Life who will

- Pray daily for The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer special intention for the Community at a weekly Eucharist or Corporate Worship.
- Keep informed about the growth and development of the Community.
- Send a yearly letter on the Feast of Pentecost to the Companion Coordinator.
- Make a yearly contribution to the Community.
- Cultivate a continuing awareness of their relationship with God which extends to the nurture of body, mind and spirit.

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit

*Although **WSHS Friends** do not make a life commitment, we want to remember their role in WSHS and thank them for their ongoing prayers for the Community.*

A Friend is a person who:

- Is interested in the development and growth of Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.
- Is committed to praying for the Community.
- Is on a personal pilgrimage.
- Desires to learn more from the life journeys of others.
- Wishes to receive the thoughts, prayers and caring concerns of this Community.

The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit Annual Renewal of Commitment

OFFICIANT:

In recognition that:

December 1972 is the anniversary of the founding of The Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit and December 1979 is the beginning of The Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit, would you now reaffirm your commitment in this Community?

COMMUNITY:

Recognizing the continuing presence of God in the process of my spiritual growth, and honoring my commitment which I made for life, I pause to reflect upon its meaning and seek revitalization in living it out.

I will continue to be faithful and obedient to my Rule of Life.
I will continue to reflect on my personal and spiritual growth.
I will continue to encourage and support the members of the Community and our leadership.
I will endeavor to continue active participation in the life of the church and represent Jesus Christ as his servant in a caring compassionate manner in this suffering world.

OFFICIANT: Would you now repeat the Covenant of our Community?

COMMUNITY:

We, the Community of the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit, in adoration of God and in thanksgiving for God's protective love for us do covenant faithfully to trust in God's unconditional grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As we participate in Jesus Christ's vision of unity, may we become his holy people, respond as we are called by the promptings of the Holy Spirit to show forth fruit, and, in obedience to His command, go forth into the world.

OFFICIANT:

May Almighty God, who has called you to serve in this holy life, give you power to fulfill your commitment through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

December 2025



COMMUNITY CHANGES

Please make the following alterations to your Green Sheets

With sadness, we announce the death of Sr. Charlotte Mary, WSHS. She passed away on October 21 at her home in Berthoud, Colorado. If you have a memory of Sr. Charlotte to share with the Community, please email it to Sr. Christine at cas-turges@gmail.com. Your memories will be compiled into a remembrance article for a future Bulletin.

An updated copy of the Birthdays & Communion of Saints list is included with this December Bulletin. Print a copy if that is helpful to you. As usual, we will include updates to the list in this column during 2026, so that you may update your hardcopy.

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



PRIORESS

1 Peter 4: 10: "As good stewards of the manifold grace of God, each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve one another"

1. First and foremost, on behalf of the entire Community, I take this opportunity to thank all of those whose service in the WSHS/WBHS Community remains in the background but are the discerning members in service to our Lord's vision for our Community. Without them, we could not exist and function as the eyes, ears and hands of a God who continues to love, guide and protect us.

2. It has been a year of diligent searching for a new American Bishop as our beloved Rt. Reverend Bishop Howe retired in 2024. As Bishop Howe has blessed us all these years with such devotion, we are aware of how difficult it will be to replace him. We trust that God has someone in mind and due to circumstances we are unaware of, we patiently await their time table.

3. Our Canadian Bishop Visitor, Susan Bell, after an extreme illness, made the decision to withdraw from the Worker Sisters/Brothers of the Holy Spirit. God then provided us with the Rt. Reverend Bishop Riscylla Shaw. It was no accident that Bishop Shaw had been searching for just such a Community as us, at the same time we needed to search for a replacement for Bishop Bell. Bishop Shaw was delighted to join us and we feel very blessed to have her. Bishop Shaw was able

to attend our 2025 *Annual Retreat* and participated in both the worship services and all presentations. She was warmly welcomed and we thank the Holy Spirit for their work throughout our search with answered prayer.

4. Sadly, we said goodbye to two of our Community members at the passing of their journey here on earth. We lost our beloved Sr. Linda Thomas very suddenly. Sr. Nancy Teresa, Sr. Nancy Clare and Sr. Shirley Evangeline represented our Community at Sr. Linda's Celebration of Life in September and receive our thanks for this support. Our second loss of Sr. Susan Gabriel was yet another sudden surprise. Unfortunately, we were not aware of Sr. Susan's passing until quite a while after the fact. There was only a Notice of Probate for her. Both Sr. Linda Thomas and Sr. Susan Gabriel will be sadly missed.

5. This year we warmly welcomed three new Friends: Bishop Riscylla Shaw, our new Canadian Bishop Visitor, Bob Hoopingarner and Doug Anning, our 2025 Retreat presenter. I can't help but feel Sr. Jacquie Elizabeth would have loved knowing that her own beloved son, Doug, would someday become a new member of our Community. How the Holy Spirit works!

6. We are delighted to announce that Mary Mack is on track to completing the Worker Applicant Program. We look forward to admitting her as a Lay Worker at Retreat 2026.

7. Sr. Kathleen Rachel was able to book the following dates to secure the Mercy Center facility so we could remain at the same place for the next five years. The Mercy Center fills all our needs by its location and services provided. Booking 5 years in advance provides us with stability in that we can make future arrangements easier to manage in personal schedules. The dates booked are as follows:

- a. 2026 – April 30 - May 3
- b. 2027 – April 15 - 18
- c. 2028 – April 27 - 30
- d. 2029 – April 26 - 29
- e. 2030 – April 25 - 28

In closing I would like to say, it is an honour and a privilege to be your Prioress. I look forward to what the next year will bring. May God continue to bless this Community and keep us all moving forward according to God's will.

Respectfully submitted,
Sr. Wendy Samuel, Prioress
WSHS/WBHS



A WORD FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN

Well, we are almost to the end of this year. "SEEKING GOD/OUR JOURNEYS" has been our theme all through this 2025 year. We have had some wonderful stories shared in our Bulletins: stories told of hard life events that have led to a life of spiritual insight and spiritual maturity, stories told of mentors who have led to the enlightenment of God's presence in our lives, stories of abuse and loneliness, stories about grieving for someone who was so close, stories of near misses — being very close to death from health issues, stories of longing for something more — 'there had to be something more to life,' stories about feelings of emptiness, stories of wandering and coming back — being drawn back to the spiritual path again.

When I consider this year's theme, it is clear to me that God is drawing us to God's presence, drawing us into God's Love all the time, all our life. The things that happen to us are meant to help us to see that we need God. We must have God near to strengthen us and make us into what we are meant to be. God desires that we are one with our Creator, Redeemer, and our Sustainer. The Trinity calls us into a beautiful dance that makes us whole.

A. C. Marble Formation School is the Mississippi diocesan school for training vocational deacons and bi-vocational priests. It was there that I was shaped and prepared for the priesthood. One vivid memory of my studies was when we explored and analyzed, as best as we could, the Trinity. I loved the word that was used to describe the Trinity. Perichoresis. The word was fun to practice saying, but even more fun to consider. The word perichoresis comes from two Greek words,

peri, which means “around,” (as in peripheral) and chorein, which means “to give way” or “to make room.” It could be translated as “rotation” or “a going around.” I was amazed when our professor revealed to us that the word choreograph comes from the word chorein. We know that a choreographer is one who plans and arranges dance moments and patterns for dances, especially for ballets. This was a visual image that helped me to understand the relationship between the persons of the Trinity. It was a dance, a dance of love!

Then, sometime during my studies, I came across the icon of the Trinity. In the icon, the Persons of the Trinity are sitting around a table with 4 chairs. One chair is empty leading us to realize it is an invitation for us to sit there too, to join at the table of the Trinity. To become a part of the relationship, a part of the union. How cool is that!!!

The dance of the Trinity is an amazing thought for me. When I was a little girl, I used to put records on the stereo cabinet in our living room and dance around the room with the doors closed. I never wanted to dance in public, that would be too embarrassing, but to dance around the room in private was so freeing for me. I felt elegant and beautiful. That’s what I remembered when we studied about the Trinity in formation school. It helped me to better understand the concept of the Trinity. Dancing with the Trinity was the ultimate of love, beauty, and relationship for me. I love the thought and often imagine it when I’m particularly sad. How it lightens my spirit! I recall how I love the song “The Lord of the Dance.” I have loved watching Sr. Catherine Marie dance liturgical dances at Retreat. My heart dances along with her.

Our whole spiritual life is a dance, a dance with the God of Love. God loves us so much and is always with us, abiding with us, even when we don’t realize it. That’s what our journey’s are all about. On this earth, we are always seeking God. It’s in our nature and that’s how we are made. Dear sisters and brothers, so may we always seek our Lord and be found by him, dancing all the way! In the name of the beautiful and glorious Trinity. **Amen.**

Much Love and Prayer,
The Rev. Sr. Brenda McClendon,
Chaplain, WSHS/WBHS



2025 CO-DIRECTORS' REPORT

Positions in the Community 2025

American Board of Directors

President - Sr. Nancy Teresa (2023-2026)

Secretary – Sr. Nancy Clare (2024-2027)

Legal Advisor – Br. Peter Nicholas

Treasurer - Sr. Nancy Teresa (2023-2026)

Canadian Board of Directors

President – Sr. Deborah (2023-2026)

Vice President – Sr. Carol Matthew
(2022-2025)

Secretary/Treasurer – Br. David
(2023-2026)

Elected member:

Sr. Helen Joseph (2022-2025)

Sr. Janeen Julian (2023-2026)

Sr. LaVerne Peter (2021-2024)

Sr. Pam Raphael (2022-2025)

Br. Raymond Gregory (2023-2026)

Elected members:

Sr. Jane Bartimaeus (2022-2025)

Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley (2022-2025)

Sari Jn-Francois (2024-2027)

By virtue of office:

American Director

Prioress

Chaplain

By virtue of office:

Canadian Director

Prioress

Chaplain

Prioress: Sr. Wendy Samuel, WSHS

Co-Directors: Sr. Kathleen Rachel, WSHS and Sr. Deborah, WSHS

Community Chaplain: Sr. Brenda Faith, WSHS

Chapter: see current Directory List

Community Ecclesiastical Visitors:

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, WSHS/WBHS – Canada, Australia
 TBA WSHS/WBHS – United States, Haiti

Director of Formation and Training: Sr. Nancy Clare, WSHS

Coordinator of Admissions: Sr. Anna Joshua, WSHS

Coordinator of Worker Applicants: Sr. Patsy Anne, WSHS

Coordinator of Novices: Sr. Shirley Evangeline, WSHS

Coordinator of Companion and Friends: Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley. WSHS

Coordinator of International Affairs: Sr. Carol Matthew WSHS

Provincials:

Eastern/Southern Province – Br. Peter Nicholas, WSHS

Central Province - Sr. Catherine Marie, WSHS

Western Province - Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS

Cluster Leaders and Mentors- see current Directory

Community Numbers:

Sisters 35 (38) Previous Year
 (Sr. Susan Gabriel, Sr. Linda Thomas, Sr. Charlotte Mary died)

Novice 0 (0) Previous Year

Workers, WSHS 13 (12) Previous Year
 (Sara and Pat admitted as Workers, Barbie Richards died)

Worker Applicants 3 (4) Previous Year
 (2 applicants admitted as Workers; 1 new applicant: Cathy)

Brothers 4 (4) Previous Year

Workers, WBHS 2 (2) Previous Year

Companions 18 (18) Previous Year

Friends.....22 (19) Previous Year
 (Doug Anning, Bishop Shaw, Bob Hoopingarner admitted at Retreat; Christopher Creech admitted in the fall;; Bishop Bell withdrew from Community)

- 85 residents of the United States
- 10 residents of Canada
- 1 resident in Australia
- 2 residents of Haiti
- 1 resident in Africa

Total 97
Previous Year 99

Communion of Saints 121 Previous Year 117

TOTAL (including Communion of Saints).....218 (214) Previous Year

Communion of Saints - Sr. Susan Gabriel, Sr. Linda Thomas

New Sisters:

New Lay Worker Applicants: Cathy Gardner

New Lay Workers: Pat Cashman and Sara Hornor

Release and/or Writ of Dispensation - None

Withdrawal from Community – Bishop Susan Bell, Friend

Close of Applicancy – None

Chapter Meetings

At the end of 2022, Chapter decided to meet monthly rather than once a year and would continue to meet via Zoom with the exception of Fall Chapter being held in person. Chapter now meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This Chapter meets in person every Fall to discuss the business of the Community and to pray and flesh out our next year’s theme. This Chapter Retreat is a time of listening, planning and acting on the promptings of The Holy Spirit in governing the direction and future of Our Community. Our Chapter is supported in prayer by the entire Community during this Retreat. This year Chapter met in person at Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri.

Board of Directors Meetings

The American Board of Directors met via Zoom on Sept. 18, 2025. The Canadian Board of Directors met via Zoom on Oct. 29, 2024. Fall Chapter met Oct. 2-5, 2025. Reports from each Board Meeting were shared.

Monthly Corporate Communions no longer take place due to logistics: i.e. distance apart as well as age and health of the membership prohibits meeting in person.

Regional Zoom Gatherings have replaced our monthly Corporate Communions

We continue to offer a monthly Regional Zoom gathering in each WSHS/WBHS Province. Meetings are open to all members (Sisters, Brothers, Workers, Companions, Friends and Applicants). Attendance has been excellent.

Informal Gatherings of our Community

Gatherings are held when 2 or 3 members are visiting in the area with other members of our Community. This takes place in various States and Provinces. Where possible, these meetings have been held via Zoom.

The Worker Sisters/Brothers of the Holy Spirit Bulletin

As we continue to grow internationally with many members living apart from each other, the monthly Bulletin is our primary source of communication and a vital link to each other across the miles. We are thankful for the regular contributions to our Bulletin as follows:

News Notes and Prayer Lists – Erin Diericx

Calendar of Birthdays and Communion of Saints - Sr. Christine

Companions and Friends Corner – Marya Pohlmeier

Spiritual Sharing and Mission and Ministry - compiled by our Provincials

Audio version of Bulletin - Br. Peter Nicholas

Bulletin Preparation and Proofing - Sr. Christine, Sr. Deborah, Sr. Shirley Evangeline

Annual Contribution Commitment Letter – Sr. Nancy Teresa, Treasurer

Ordering Retreat shirts – Chapter has decided that the ordering of t-shirts should now occur every 5 years rather than annually.

2025 Theme: Seeking God: Our Journeys**Monthly Bulletin Topics: Sharing from Community members about their personal spiritual journey**

January – Sr. Wendy Samuel, Prioress

February – Marilyn Propp

March – Sr. Deborah

April – Sr. Catherine Marie

May – Sr. Lucia

June – Sr. Shirley Evangeline

July – Sr. Jane Bartimaeus

August – Pat Cashman

September – Br. David

October – Janine Robbins

November – Pam Winn

December – Annual Recommitment to Community – All members of WSHS

2025 – 52nd Retreat Theme was “Seeking God: Our Journeys”.

Attendees had the choice of in-person attendance or attending via Zoom. The dates for Retreat were: April 24th, 2024 2:00-4:00 PM ET;

April 25th: Noon-4:00 PM ET; and

April 26th: Noon-4:00 PM ET

Presenter: Doug Anning - “Looking at Christianity through a Buddhist Lens”

Participants: All members of WSHS who were able to attend in person and via Zoom

Yellow Letters

Our monthly Yellow letter is a means of communication between Cluster Leaders and members. It affords each member the opportunity to reflect upon his or her spiritual journey during the past month. Members are also asked to respond to the article relating to the topic of the month. The writing of the Yellow letter is part of the Rule and discipline of the Community.

Provincial and Cluster Leader Reports

Twice a year Cluster Leaders report on the activity of their Cluster and on each individual member’s spiritual journey and commitment to the Rule of Life. Cluster

Leaders send their reports to their Provincial, who forwards them to the respective Directors.

Other forms of Communication

Our Website is a link to the world and is a continual work in progress. www.workersisters.org, www.workerbrothers.org.

Br. David, WBHS forwards e-mail urgent prayer requests to Brothers, Sisters, Workers and Marilyn Propp, WSHS forwards the prayer requests to Companions and Friends and Applicants. Those members not on email are contacted by telephone or mailed copies of the request. This method of communicating our prayer requests is working well.

The Intercessory Prayer Team is led by Sr. Wendy Martha and includes several members of the Community. They begin prayers immediately once alerted by Sr. Wendy Martha, when emergency/time sensitive prayer requests are received.

A monthly prayer list is also printed and included in the Bulletin. This list contains requests for prayer by Community members, for other Community members, non-Community friends and family, and for the world.

Sr. Alexandra Francis keeps in touch with the families of Our Communion of Saints with cards on the anniversary of their deaths.

Mailing of Special Event Cards – Janine Robbins, Sr. Sharron Magdalene

Retreat 2026 is scheduled to be held at The Mercy Center, St. Louis, Missouri April 30 - May 3, 2026

Theme: A Benedictine Ethos of Care of Creation

Presenter: Sr. Elizabeth Carillo, OSB

Respectfully submitted by,

Sr. Kathleen Rachel, American Co-Director, WSHS

Sr. Deborah, Canadian Co-Director, WSHS



SPIRITUAL SHARING

I pray for the soul of Sr. Charlotte Mary. She was in my Cluster Group, and I would call her every month and we would talk for an hour each time about our spiritual journeys. And also about our lives from childhood to the present. We reminisced about all that we have been through and especially about WSHS and the impact that it had on our lives. I miss hearing her voice and speaking to her. I looked forward to our monthly calls. Her daughter and family were so loving and kind to her and I thank them for that. Dear Sr. Charlotte Mary, I will miss you for ever and ever until we meet again. I love you dear Sister.

What a joy to spend time sharing prayers, thoughts, and experiences together as we move forward in our individual journeys. Janine wrote in our newsletter about her first experience meeting Jesus. At Retreat some of us discussed our first experiences with Christ. Some found him at their Sunday schools, some at religious schools, and many through their families.

I was so fortunate at age 9 when we helped found St. Patrick's in the DC area of Virginia. My Sunday School teacher for the next three years was deeply concerned that we find a permanent home within the church. The strongest parts of this time were the regular visits to The National Cathedral. We were able to attend services of many kinds including weddings, baptisms and funerals. We often sat in the back pews for the services and afterward there was a room for us to sit around a big table and discuss what we had seen. Questions about the services themselves were many at first. We often spoke about what understanding we had gained and how to use that as a basis for our daily prayer life. As we spoke last week with others about our spiritual awakenings, it expanded our thinking on other ways to open our hearts to Christ and to help others do the same.

Having just experienced another beautiful All Souls weekend, I find myself giving thanks for these sacred days in our Church year. All Saints has always held deep meaning for me. Over the years, I've smiled and rejoiced during those services and at other times, I've wept openly. This year's observance was one of quiet reflection.

I'm so glad you're following the "Sr. Angela multi-colored pens system" for writing in your journal. Daily notes are small bites that come together later. Also, I find it clarifies thoughts and feelings. Wonderful that this gives you "great joy"

It made me think of the Ministry of Presence, just being present to people and listening to them, in a gentle supportive presence. Perhaps that is the ministry that is growing in you.

Any advice I might have on praying aloud would start with: whatever you say is fine; there are no perfect words. In my experience, I have often felt others prayed more strongly, more appropriately than I could ever do and I found out later that they thought the same about my prayer. Just talk to God from your heart. All will be well. And practice is a very good idea.

Much to my relief, it has been made clear to me that God did not take it personally when I observed "radio silence" for several months while dealing with the crisis of a loved one.

I have discovered that praying four rosary cycles (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious) in one day is too much for me to handle. Instead, here is my weekly schedule --

Sunday--Glorious

Monday--Joyful

Tuesday--Sorrowful

Wednesday--Glorious

Thursday--Luminous

Friday--Sorrowful

Saturday--Joyful

Although I never really fell away, I always talked to God in prayer but it wasn't until my encounter with God when he told me to continue in WSHS/WBHS, that I felt I was growing in faith with God. I continue my daily readings and prayer although I often feel that I am not doing enough for God, I know he is walking with me and helping me to improve daily.

I was struck by a comment about "doing enough for God". The good news would be: "I am motivated to serve my God." But the not-so-good news would be the

doubting: "Am I doing everything I am supposed to do?" In Matthew's version of a parable, one servant doubled the "talents" he was given by his absent master. He must have worked hard to do that, or maybe he just got lucky and took advantage of an opportunity that showed up. "Buy low and sell high" sort of thing. I think it's our job just to keep our eyes open for opportunities to serve God.

Our rector's sermon on Sunday focused on saints. It was November 2, "All Souls Day". I don't remember much of it. But somewhere in the service I was viscerally struck by the realization that I have been forgiven of my wrongdoings. I have known this for years in my head, of course, but not so much in my heart. It was a compelling moment. I was almost brought to tears.