



GLEANINGS

A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

July/August 2020

Volume XLVI Number 4

The Lord Has More for Us

*from the Pentecost 2020 Live Streamed event
Fr. Cal Christiansen, Keynote Speaker*

Fr. Cal Christiansen greeted us with a blessing on Pentecost Sunday, the end of a journey that began on Ash Wednesday. It has been a different journey this year. He invited viewers to extend their hands and pray that the Holy Spirit would anoint this time, "Come Holy Spirit. Enter the hearts of everyone viewing, be here with us today." He said he believed that the Lord wants more for us personally, for our families and for our Church.

Fr. Cal read from a commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, written by a twelve-year-old, who said that the disciples had been waiting in Jerusalem as Jesus told them. It was like the Hebrews wandering in the desert before entering the promised land. They were going through what we are going through now, in this time of a pandemic. It is a time of waiting for something more. Our promised land is coming but we have to wait for it. There is something more on the horizon.

The first Wednesday when everything was closed down because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fr. Cal really felt the emptiness in contrast to the usually very busy day. This Lent was a real desert experience for him. But the moments of grace were times to go more deeply into Jesus and his

cross. God is always moving us to something more.

He said that biblical passages sustained him: Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." God has a final plan for the cosmos, and for us personally. He is a personal God. He loves you. We are destined for greatness. Do you believe this? Do you believe that we can have the first fruits now?

Ephesians 1:13-14, "In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory." We have the first installment of the Holy Spirit. In Christ we have been given the gift of the Spirit. It is the first installment of something more. As the Hebrews were going through the desert, as the disciples were waiting for the Advocate, there is always more. All things work together for good, and we have the first installment of something more.

He asked, "Do you believe that our Lord has a plan for your life? No

[To Page 4](#)

WWCCR Goes Live-Stream!

As you have doubtless experienced at every level of your own life, the COVID-19 shutdown has required us all to re-think and re-work our plans. By the grace of God, and the willing help of many creative servants of the Lord, the planning for the Pentecost 2020 event went through that same process. What began as in-person meetings to do the planning soon led to questions of whether we could meet at all when the COVID-19 shutdown occurred. We held conference calls, and learned

[To Page 4](#)

**NOTES FROM THE OFFICE
PAGE 2**

**THE BACKSTORY
PAGE 3**

**TESTIMONY
PAGE 5**

**FEEDBACK
PAGE 6**

**INTERCESSION
PAGE 7**

WWCCR VISION AND MISSION

Vision: that all Catholics mature in a personal relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God The Father.

Mission: to renew the face of the earth by nurturing and inspiring Catholics:

- + To experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- + To fan into flame the gifts we receive through the Sacraments
- + To develop a deeper life of prayer and worship

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GLEANINGS is the bimonthly newsletter published by Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal (WWCCR). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide teaching, news, and a calendar of events which help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Church in Western Washington.

Deadline: in order for any articles, news, or calendar items to be considered for publication in **GLEANINGS**, it must be submitted by the 1st of the month before the month of publication. All submissions subject to editing for length, accuracy, and clarity.

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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE NOTES

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**Thank you faithful donors for your support
of this ministry as we seek new ways in this
time of pandemic, to fulfill our vision that
“all Catholics mature in a personal relationship
with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to
the glory of God the Father.”**

The BACKSTORY

On the Tech Team for the Pentecost 2020 Live-Stream Event

Shared by Jim Krieger

Woody Allen once said, “Eighty percent of success is showing up.” How true. It seems, the longer I allow the Holy Spirit to take over my life the less I must do. Regarding the Holy Spirit, I have come to believe that just showing up is closer to ninety-five percent.

If it were not for my prior encounters, I would have never volunteered for this mission. The call came on April 16th asking if I would help with the Pentecost Live Streaming Event. I thought to myself, “Isn’t Pentecost on May 31st, six weeks away?” I asked the Holy Spirit, “What are you getting us into now?” He said, “Just send the invite and I will do the rest.”

He had never let me down before, so I agreed, and we were off. Yes, we. The Holy Spirit introduced me to new friends and old ones that I knew would answer the call because they believe in the same insane concept that if we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us there is nothing we can’t do.

What was the big deal anyway? We had never done this before, with equipment we didn’t have, during a pandemic, leaving us with limited locations and people to recruit. No big deal.

It’s during experiences like this that I understand more fully why God assigned 12 Apostles to Jesus.

It was because that is how many it took. Somehow the Father knows the perfect recipe of skills, talent,

ability, gifts, etc. to balance out the energy for staying on task. Personality traits, defects of character coupled with humility and gratitude that created this harmonious team.

Each team member had a talent and background that was required to be successful and not one stepped on any toes. Not one was dependent on praise in order to stay focused. It was as if each team member was working perfectly, as if their life depended on it, to fulfill their independent role; and the Holy Spirit put it all together like a jigsaw puzzle. It truly was amazing to behold.

I have plenty of examples throughout this experience that I could share, but all you really need to do is watch the video and know that nobody other than the Holy Spirit knew what they were doing.

Suffice it to say that in the end all I really did was “show up.”

Jim Krieger is a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish, Bothell



Shared by Albert Mendonca

I’ve been associated with WWCCR in various different capacities. So when I received a call from WWCCR to help the live streaming team to execute the event for Pentecost, I went ahead and said Yes. I’m no sound engineer by any standards, and had no idea how to pull this off. I had somewhat of a knowledge of live streaming, but this one was at a completely different level.

There were many moments where the Holy Spirit came to our aid. But the biggest one revolved around a device called the “video switcher.” This device allows hooking up multiple cameras, and pick any one of them for the live stream. It sits at the heart of the overall system.

Getting it to work was a nightmare. After investing considerable amount of money and effort scouring various forums, I found it needed one more device to make it work. So I went ahead and ordered it. After trying to put them together unsuccessfully, I found it needed yet another device! Frustrated, I went and ordered that too. At this point I had invested enough time, money and effort, so I told the Lord that this would be my last attempt before giving up. The device arrived, and guess what? It still did not work!

Angry at the Lord at how this had ended, I gave up on it and packed all the devices to return when I heard a voice say “Restart the system and try again.” I felt it was the Holy Spirit speaking. So I listened, and as a last ditch attempt did just that—and *voila*—it worked! Praise the Lord! The settings probably just needed a clean start.

I was thrilled to finally see this through after all that battle! The live-stream event went off as originally planned, with multiple cameras producing an engaging experience. Thank you Jesus!

Albert Mendonca is a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish, Bothell

MORE from page 1

matter where you are now, no matter where you have been, God has a destiny prepared for you and your family from the foundation of the world. Our Lord has a plan for your life. Whatever desert you are in now, whatever addiction has bound you, whatever darkness surrounds you, the Lord will not leave you there. He said, I will be with you in the descending of the Holy Spirit. Do you believe that there is a glorious destiny for you prepared from the foundation of the world?"

Today is Pentecost Sunday. The growth and journey towards that **more** that the Lord has in store for us is impossible without a life deeply rooted in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit has to be activated in our lives. Fr. Cal said that he came into the Catholic Church through the activation of the Holy Spirit, through the charismatic renewal, including attending WWCCR conferences held in the Tacoma Dome many years ago. This activation led to conversion, and to his vocation to the priesthood.

The Holy Spirit has to be activated today in this time. What good is God bringing out of this global pandemic? The Lord will bring incredible good and blessing into our lives, into the Church, into the world. "All things

work for good." The Holy Spirit brings it about. We need the Spirit to bring the good that God has for our lives, to bring us to that promised land. The Holy Spirit wants to touch all

"We are to be the ongoing Book of Acts, the living members, community of missionary disciples going out to all the world. We need the Spirit to do this."

of us. The Spirit is the verb of God, the mover, the shaker, the one who inspires us, who fills us. The Holy Spirit leads us to the promised land in our lives, allows us to walk in the kingdom of God. The Acts of the Apostles has 28 chapters in the Bible, and we are called to be the 29th chapter! We are to be the ongoing Book of Acts, the living members, community of missionary disciples going out to all the world. We need the Spirit to do this.

Fr. Cal led us to pray, to realize we are in the kingdom, that the Spirit is moving within us, yearning for a

deeper holiness, a deeper prayer life, yearning for something more, greater peace, greater courage. Our sins have caused deep wounds that prevent us from entering the promised land. The Lord wants to heal those wounds. We are those missionary disciples; we need to be faithful to that call.

To those who have never experienced the indwelling of the Spirit, he urged to pray with all of your heart, invite the Spirit into your heart. Close your eyes, lift up your hands and pray, "Come Holy Spirit." Fr. Cal prayed, "Lord send your Spirit into their homes, into their hearts right now. You're the healing God. We ask you to heal those addictions to pornography, substance abuse, to materialism, to ourselves, to our pride. Whatever is blocking your full presence in our lives, we ask for healing of that now. Strengthen us, be with us, that we may be faithful missionary disciples. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of each of us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen"

Fr. Cal thanked everyone viewing the video and thanked WWCCR for inviting him to be part of the Pentecost 2020 event. He ended, "God bless you and your families."

Fr. Cal Christiansen is the pastor at St. Pius X parish in Mountlake Terrace, WA

LIVE-STREAM from page 1

how to have Zoom meetings. We investigated many options and expanded the team to include members with technical knowledge to re-think and re-work our way of gathering together. Our focus was to proclaim the message of Pentecost through every element: video-taped greeting from Bishop Elizondo, testimonies, live streaming with emcee Fr. Jim Northrop, presenter Fr.

Cal Christiansen, praise & worship led by Julia Cox and prayer to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. If you missed "attending" this event, you can still watch it by clicking on the link on our website: wwccr.org. You will be blessed! The credits at the end of the event video lists the many people who cooperated with the Holy Spirit to make *Pentecost 2020* successful. We've also included the credit list on page 2. *Thanks be to God!*

The Spirit IS My Life

by Kianna Garmanian

On April 21, 2020, my dearest Nana, Colleen Stuber, returned to our Lord. Just two weeks earlier, she was diagnosed with COVID-19 and taken to the hospital. In the span of those two short weeks, the Coronavirus attacked her organs, leading to a heart attack, kidney failure, lung issues, and pneumonia. She was placed on a ventilator in the ICU and was closely monitored by the incredible hospital staff, yet, the virus wouldn't back down.

Her rate of decline was very fast—so fast that we didn't even have time to process all that was happening. It was like, one moment, my Nana was showing me her new art projects over Facetime and updating me on the newest drama in her assisted living home, and the next moment, she was hooked up to a breathing tube and several machines, unable to communicate with her family.

One of the most difficult parts of this suffering was not being able to be physically there with my Nana, holding her hand, and whispering in her ear that she was going to be all right. It absolutely broke my heart. The amazing hospital staff set up a station for us to video chat with her when she was in the ICU, although, she wasn't able to speak or respond. But we still talked to her each day, prayed out loud, and looked at her beautiful face. I even sung the song I wrote for her when I was in 4th grade during every one of our video chats. Those were the only source of physical connection and encounter that I could have with my grandma during her final days on earth.

Coping with the loss of a loved one is something I was never prepared for. While my Nana was in the hospital,

I was mad, afraid, scared, sad, and heartbroken. I would sprint around my neighborhood block, time and time again, just trying to make sense of the situation. I scribbled in my journal and unleashed all my sadness. I held my family members as they were hurting. I even sent text messages to my Nana, knowing that she wouldn't be able to respond, but just wanting to share all that was on my heart. I looked at her artwork and letters, which were hung in my room—all the handmade gifts she gave me throughout the years—and was left in tears. I felt like a part of my heart and soul was dying with my Nana, as her health weakened. And for a moment, nothing else in all the world mattered to me.

In these moments of suffering, although my whole world felt like it was shattering beneath me, I was being held. Calling upon the Holy Spirit in my daily life allowed me to experience the peace of Christ, even among the pain, especially among the pain, so that my tears were not just ones of sorrow and anger, but ones of joy and love. Because I know that in our suffering we unite to Christ on the cross most intimately, I also know with all my heart that my Nana was deeply united to the Heart of Christ during her final days.

"Not my will, but your will be done, Lord." The Holy Spirit showered me with graces to see the light, to be reaffirmed and assured of the truth of Christ. I prayed every day for the miraculous healing of my Nana that she would be delivered from this virus, and brought safely to shore. Our Lord granted me this wish, but in a different way than I expected, on April 21, 2020 at 10:08 pm, which is when my Nana took her very

last breath on earth, and her very first breath in Heaven.

My faith didn't take away my sorrows and sufferings, but instead, brought meaning and redemption to these pains. Somehow, entrusting my life to the Holy Spirit, allowed me to be in tune with the will of God for my Nana. It allowed me to walk through one of the most difficult moments in my life with peace. And even among the various emotions and ways that I processed, there was never a moment that the peace of the Spirit left me. It is only with my faith that I was able to make it through and look to the light, when it once seemed impossible to find. Not only that, but to rejoice and celebrate the gift of my grandma's life on earth and new life in heaven, knowing that her eternal journey had just begun.

The Holy Spirit isn't just a part of my life. The Spirit IS my life. The Spirit consumes every one of my breaths and leads me closer to the truth of our faith. The Holy Spirit comforts me in my deepest trials and rejoices with me in my greatest joys.

I invite you, wherever you are at this moment, to pause, reflect on your current state in life, bring to mind the sufferings, pains, joys, and blessings, and unite these to the Holy Spirit, who is right beside you; who is in you. This is the moment—this is the time to renew our faith, together, as one community and Body of Christ. You are not alone. You are being held. You will get through this. You are infinitely loved. So, let us pray, "Come, Holy Spirit, come."

Kianna Garmanian is the youth minister at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

Other Pentecost Feedback

*Regarding Daniel Stoneking's
Testimony*

Hi Daniel,

I know this is super random but I thought I'd reach out and let you know how your testimony on Pentecost Sunday really touched me. I want to thank you for sharing your story and your heart. Recently I have been going through a tough breakup, thus leading to some depression and kind of putting God on a shelf for a bit. I've been touched by the Holy Spirit many times in my life but I had found myself in a spiritual lull. I just happened to see the advertisement for the Pentecost service via the WWCCR website and tuned in that day. What you shared and how you shared your testimony made me long for the Lord again. After your testimony I went to confession, have been working on my prayer life, and have had a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. God is good.

Writer requests to remain anonymous



I was online on YouTube for the entire amazing Pentecost celebration yesterday. The speakers were excellent sharing the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The music beautiful and Spirit filled even more special with Fr. Jim singing with Julia. Fr. Cal and Fr. Jim inspiring, sharing their personal stories...I never tire of listening to them present. We are so blessed to have them as our priests. You all did an excellent job putting the celebration together.

Thanks again so much for the celebration we shared together. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

- Cathy Williams



I loved the event. My favorite part was Fr. Northop's talk and the music. It was all wonderful.

I also loved Sharon's call to prayer a few Fridays back, where she said that the Lord would give

us a prayer assignment. I took that seriously! I was able to share that with school students. Thank you, Sharon.

- Margaret Whetham



Dear Pentecost Celebration Committee,

How can I come up with just one part that I liked best? It was so wonderful...everything, every part, every testimonial, every song, the greeting, the prayer, the teaching, and the music.

It was beautifully orchestrated from beginning to end! I really felt the Holy Spirit moving, my heart was set on fire. I loved it all!! Thank you so very much. The live-streaming reached so many people...God bless all of you for the ministry of WWCCR. It was a huge lift after the evening before. Thank you Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit upon us!

- Theresa Jordan



Weekly Emails

Filled with inspiration and event information.
Keep up to date in between your
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and Catholic authors.

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Sequence to the
Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit,
send forth the heavenly
radiance of your light.

Come, father of the poor,
come, giver of gifts,
come, light of the heart.

Greatest comforter,
sweet guest of the soul,
sweet consolation.

In labor, rest,
in heat, temperance,
in tears, solace.

O most blessed light,
fill the inmost heart
of your faithful.

Without your grace,
there is nothing in us,
nothing that is not harmful.

Cleanse that which is unclean,
water that which is dry,
heal that which is wounded.

Bend that which is inflexible,
fire that which is chilled,
correct what goes astray.

Give to your faithful,
those who trust in you,
the sevenfold gifts.

Grant the reward of virtue,
grant the deliverance of
salvation, grant eternal joy.

Amen.

Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:

July 1	Pope Francis	Aug 1	Pope Francis
July 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne	Aug 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne
July 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSPS	Aug 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSPS
July 4	Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg	Aug 4	Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg
July 5	Fr. Jim Northrop	Aug 5	Fr. Jim Northrop
July 6	Fr. Michael G. Ryan	Aug 6	Seminarian Brody Stewart
July 7	Fr. Justin Ryan	Aug 7	Fr. Todd Strange
July 8	Deacon Jerry Sadler	Aug 8	Fr. Mel Strazicich
July 9	Deacon Ron San Nicolas	Aug 9	Fr. Thomas Suss
July 10	Fr. José de Jesus Sanchez	Aug 10	Fr. Stephen Szeman
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July 15	Fr. Milhton Scarpetta	Aug 15	Fr. Brian Thompson
July 16	Fr. Frank Schuster	Aug 16	Fr. Francis Thumbi
July 17	Fr. Sebstin Santhosh Sebastian	Aug 17	Deacon Donald Tillitson
July 18	Fr. Dennis Sevilla	Aug 18	Seminarian John Tomassi
July 19	Deacon Tim Shamrell	Aug 19	Deacon Bill Townsend
July 20	Fr. Patrick Sherrard	Aug 20	Fr. Vu Tran
July 21	Deacon Mark Shine	Aug 21	Fr. Anh Tran
July 22	Deacon Joe Shriver	Aug 22	Fr. Thomas Tran
July 23	Fr. Jack Shrum	Aug 23	Fr. Anthony Lan Tran
July 24	Deacon Joseph Sifferman	Aug 24	Fr. William Treacy
July 25	Fr. Vinner Raj Simeon Raj	Aug 25	Deacon Asipeli Tuifua
July 26	Fr. Showreelu Simham	Aug 26	Fr. Patrick Twohy
July 27	Fr. Roger Smith	Aug 27	Fr. José Ugalde
July 28	Deacon Lloyd Snider	Aug 28	Fr. Thomas Vandenberg
July 29	Fr. Richard Spicer	Aug 29	Deacon Gene Vanderzanden
July 30	Fr. Aloysius Ssensamba	Aug 30	Fr. Joseph Dang Vu
July 31	Seminarian Simon Stehr	Aug 31	Fr. John Walmesley

Let us pray:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hear the prayers we offer for our priests.

Let them know clearly the work that You are calling them to do.

**Grant them every grace to answer Your call with courage, love and
lasting dedication to Your will. We ask Mary's intercession as their
loving mother. Amen**



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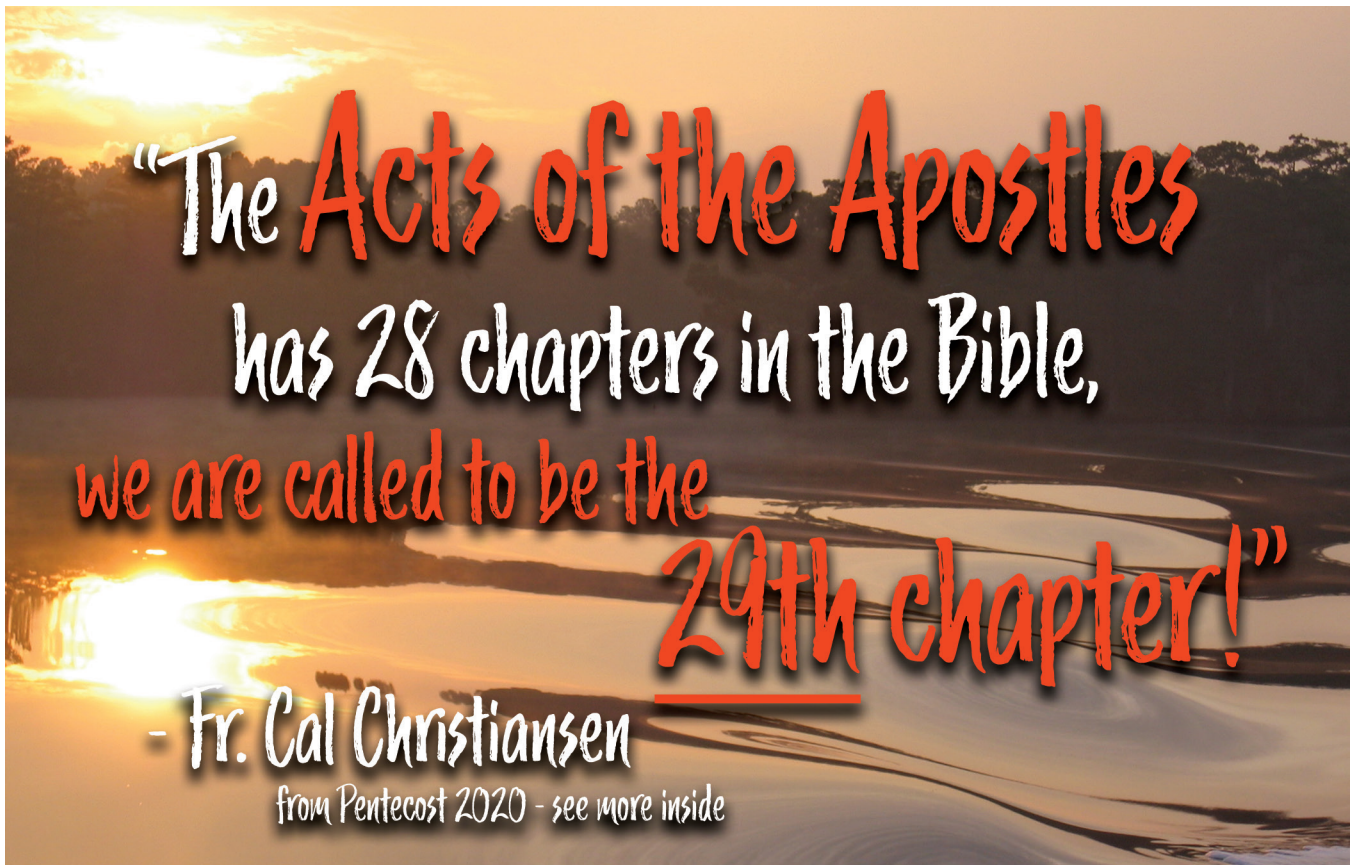
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GLEANINGS

JULY/AUGUST, 2020



**"The Acts of the Apostles
has 28 chapters in the Bible,
we are called to be the
29th chapter!"**

- Fr. Cal Christiansen
from Pentecost 2020 - see more inside