

# GLEANNINGS

THAT ALL CATHOLICS MATURE IN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS,  
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

September/October 2020

Volume XLVI Number 5

## BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

by Carolyn McNerney

I'm so aware these days (as are you, I am sure) of the turmoil in pretty much every area of human life—physical, emotional, cultural, political, even spiritual—on a nearly global scale. And it is very distressing.

One of the beatitudes Jesus expresses is “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.” [Matt. 5:9] The world is definitely in need of peacemakers.

What, exactly, is a peacemaker?

We sing, “Make me a channel of Your peace.” I guess I always thought that meant to make me a person of peace—I saw it as being a sort of rock, stable in the midst of the turbulent river of life's difficult episodes; someone that others could count on in one way or another; someone whose faith helped or encouraged others. But that's not it!

In praying about and researching for this article, I've learned some things. Being a peacemaker is not a solitary role. It isn't simply about being a peaceful person, even to bless others with your peaceful presence and prayer. It is to strive for peace (peace “maker”) for the higher good. It is being active in the pursuit of peace between persons or among groups who are “at variance” (in conflict) with one another. An online search for “famous peacemakers” turned up Nelson Mandela, Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, Susan B. Anthony, and many others. These names are well known to us for a reason. They spoke up.

From the Catholic Encyclopedia (via Catholic.com): “The ‘peacemakers’ are those who not only live in peace with others but moreover do their best to preserve peace and friendship among mankind and between God and man, and to restore it when it has been disturbed.”

Yikes! That means maybe stepping out! I'm a behind-the-scenes person, an intercessor. I pray for the people who are on the front lines, sticking their necks out, and leading the way. Intercession is a good, worthy, necessary, and holy endeavor. It's just that, if I'm inviting the Lord to make me a channel of His peace, and to be a peacemaker, there's more to it than I thought. Although I love my faith and I read and try to be informed, I'm not a theologian or an apologist, so I am often reluctant to engage in dialogue and risk being inadequate for the task. How, then, do I live up to what I'm inviting the Lord to do with me?

Everything comes back around to the Holy Spirit—baptism in the Holy Spirit, to be exact—for how can we be what God calls us to be without it? I need it now as

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## 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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## OFFICE NOTES FROM JEAN BEERS

# PRAYER GROUPS AND COVID 19

Prayer Groups meeting together every week was a common practice for decades at parishes all over the Archdiocese. We came together to praise God, to share our faith, to intercede for many needs, to pray for physical and spiritual healing, and to enjoy one another's company. Then came the "stay at home" orders. How are the prayer groups and other ministries continuing? Zoom meetings, live streamed Masses, and online virtual conferences have become prevalent means of connecting for prayer group members. Zoom meetings are appreciated for being able to see one another and to pray together, but for some people, they are not satisfactory. "It's not the same!" is nearly everyone's complaint. And folks without internet can't join at all. Those without online devices are able to watch EWTN on TV, for Mass and other prayer opportunities.

Several groups are not meeting "virtually" at all, but phone calls, small outdoor meetings with social distancing, reservations at parish Masses, and Adoration, if available, are ways people are staying connected. Some people say they are praying more, doing more spiritual reading and praying more rosaries, litanies and other devotions.

Many have discovered "The Chosen," a YouTube video series on the life of Jesus as viewed from the people around him. This unique series creatively depicts the humanity of Jesus. "Formed" webinars, YouTube and Facebook videos are resources that people use for instruction and inspiration.

Some report getting used to staying at home. It takes an effort to reach out, but let's do it, make the phone calls to encourage and cheer on others, pray especially for those in great need, seek the Lord's will in this different and difficult time. Let's not fall asleep, but keep our lamps filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit, stirring up the gifts of the Spirit that each of us has received, so that we are ready when the Bridegroom comes.



Encourage one another and build one another up.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



# HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

by *Andrea Garcia*

We've all watched the news and know what's going on in the world right now so I just won't go there.

Where I really want to go is to that place in front of God and cry out, "Lord, please give your people words of hope so they can carry on in the chaos." I pray it for myself too. I was at church for our first in-house Adoration July 31st, on my knees and very thankful. I was praying for all of you who might be reading this to "Rise Up" and keep your eyes focused on the one who gives hope for the future. In what way do you need to be filled with hope right now? Ask God what that is. Then give thanks to the Lord of Hope.

My mom passed away on July 9th after an extended illness. She and I had recently been reconciled after years of discord and I was just starting to enjoy our restored relationship through our phone conversations. Her death, so soon after our reconciliation, might have been devastating, but the Lord is so kind.

The week before she passed, I had a dream which I believe was from the Lord. In the dream, my mom had died and I was surprised that I was actually okay about it. I felt the Lord spoke to my heart that night and was preparing me ahead of time to remind me that she (we) are in the palm of His hands. God is our hope and He is in

control, and always, always, taking care of us, so we have nothing to fear. By the way, can we just renounce that word "fear" and replace it with "Confidence in Christ"?

**God is  
our hope  
and He is  
in control.**

My grief is great right now but my hope is even greater! Greater because my future doesn't look to this world. JESUS IS my world! My mother hoped in the Lord to the end, and I will too. As

long as I live, I will speak life! I will speak hope! We must remind and keep each other alive in the truth that "Hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Hebrews 5:5)

October is the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, so let us intercede for one another in our life circumstances as we pray, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

*Andrea Garcia is a WWCCR Board member and a member of the Life in the Holy Spirit Retreat team. She attends Blessed Sacrament parish in Seattle.*



# THE LIGHT SHINES AND IS NOT OVERCOME

*Dr. Mary Healy gave very inspiring and encouraging talks at the Sparks of Faith Conference on July 11, sponsored by St. Mary Parish in Anacortes. This is a summary of her first talk.*

We are living in epic times with the global lock down, intense social turmoil, deepening racial and political divisions, fear intensifying, troubling decisions regarding religious freedom. Do you feel shaken in your life, maybe even shaken in your faith?

When we feel shaken, we need to turn to the Word of God and let it be our anchor. Hebrews 12:26-27 says that God will shake the heavens and the earth, and God removes what is shaken, so that what cannot be shaken may remain. God is allowing the created things, things that seemed stable and reliable, to be shaken, so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Then scripture says, "Let us be grateful for having received an unshakeable kingdom!" The kingdom of God is unshakable! Jesus died and rose to give us this kingdom, and it will last forever.

John 1:4-5 says, "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Jesus came into a world of darkness,

**There is no contest.  
The light wins.  
The light of the  
world is Jesus.**

the darkness of disease, demonic oppression, and sin. He came to shine his light, to heal the world from within, because the darkness cannot overcome the light.

When you go into a dark room and turn on the light, is there a contest between the light and the darkness? No, there is no contest. The light wins. The light of the world is Jesus. When Jesus comes into our lives, our community, a city, a nation, the darkness has to flee.

Times of trial and difficulty, like those we are living in now, are an opportunity for us to become who we really are, to shine out into the darkness with the light of Christ and

let the darkness see the power of that light. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." He also said, "You are the light of the world," because he is in us.

Dr. Healy spoke eloquently and urgently when she urged us to reflect on what the Spirit was saying to the churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Do we "have ears to hear" how it applies to us? She especially focused on the danger of being lukewarm, having one foot in the world and one foot in the kingdom of God.

When we see with the eyes of faith, we know that Jesus is Lord and nothing happens outside his control. As bad as it looks, we don't need to be afraid because he is sovereign over our lives. He knows what he is doing and "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

We all have a role to play in the battle against darkness that is going on now. We realize that what is at stake is the future of souls, either to be eternally with God or eternally separated from him. God has a mission for each one of us that nobody else can fulfill. Each one of us is strategically placed by God to be his presence to those around us. Yes, it is daunting. None of us is capable, on our own, to fulfill the mission we are given. Jesus knows what we need.

After Jesus died and rose again, his church wasn't capable either. The disciples were behind locked doors. Jesus knew they weren't ready, they needed one more thing. He said, "Wait for the promise of the Father. John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

On the day of Pentecost, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. God's love was poured into their hearts. Their fears went out the window;

they were completely new people, able to bear witness to Christ in a dark, pagan world.

**Lord, we ask that  
you pour out your  
Holy Spirit anew.  
*Come Holy Spirit!***

Like those disciples, each one of us needs a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit for our mission in the world. Make a decision for Jesus: choose to be his disciple and to make him Lord of your life. Repent of any ways you have been lukewarm. Then pray: "O Lord God, just like the disciples in the upper room, we are so in need of your Spirit. Like them, we are in lock-down. We don't know how to carry out the mission you have for us. We don't know how to

be your light in the world, but you've told us to do it. So, Lord, we ask that you pour out your Holy Spirit anew.

Come Holy Spirit. Come now. Come as you will. Come and fill me." Then just receive, allow him to move in your heart. Bring Jesus, the Light, into your world!

Each one of us needs a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Those who have been baptized have already received the Holy Spirit, but we need a fresh outpouring. Dr. Healy then led everyone in a prayer of sur-

render to Jesus and a prayer of repentance, followed by asking for the Holy Spirit to come and fill their hearts. She said to pay attention to what the Holy Spirit was doing, he wants to give new gifts, that he was looking for willing hearts that will say yes to him. She closed with a prayer to help everyone continue to receive throughout the day.

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much as at the beginning of my faith journey. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses...to the end of the earth." [Acts 1:8]

St. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:15 about upbuilding the body of Christ in love: "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." And again, in Philippians, 4:8: "...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there

is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." But the verse that follows is a verse of action: "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you." Do. What exactly is the Lord calling me to do in this time and place?

*Carolyn McNerney is a regular volunteer at the WWCCR office and a member of the Life in the Holy Spirit Retreat team. She and her husband Ron attend St. Theresa parish in Federal Way.*



**H**oly Mary, we come before you as spiritual children in great need, seeking your intercession, and asking that your mantle of love surround us to console, protect, and lead us to your son Jesus.

We entrust all of God's family, especially the church in Western Washington, into your immaculate hands. With your son Jesus' gentle power you can *undo any knot* in our church, and in the lives of believers who entrust themselves to your care.

Today I especially entrust to you *[mention request/ Coronavirus here]*, and I ask that — through your intercession, and that of St. James, our guardian angels, and the faithful in our archdiocese — we may be free from every spiritual and temporal ill, and be safely led to encounter your son's merciful, sacred heart.

Our Lady of Seattle, Undoer of Knots, pray for us!

## Reflections on *Intercessory Prayer*

"It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us." Rom 8:34  
"He is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them." Heb 7:25

Jesus, the Head of the Body, "lives forever to make intercession" for us. And we, as members of the Body, join with our Head to offer intercession, whenever we approach God on behalf of another person. Apart from Jesus, our prayers of petition are meaningless. "Without me you can do nothing" John 15:15. But in union with Jesus, our prayers of petition bear fruit for all eternity. Thus, we are motivated to pray for others, even for our enemies, that through Jesus, all their earthly and eternal needs will be met.



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:**

Sept 1 Pope Francis

Sept 2 Archbishop Paul Etienne

Sept 3 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSPS

Sept 4 Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg

Sept 5 Fr. Jim Northrop

Sept 6 Deacon Dick Wallace

Sept 7 Fr. John Walmesley

Sept 8 Fr. Dick Ward

Sept 9 Deacon Jack Warfield

Sept 10 Fr. Gary Weisenberger

Sept 11 Fr. Edward White

Sept 12 Fr. Nicholas Wichert

Sept 13 Fr. John Wilkie

Sept 14 Fr. James Williams

Sept 15 Deacon Stephen Wodzanowski

Sept 16 Fr. Stephen Woodland

Sept 17 Fr. Gerald Woodman

Sept 18 Fr. Michael Wright

Sept 19 Fr. Horacio Yanez

Sept 20 Deacon Jua Pao Yang

Sept 21 Fr. David Young

Sept 22 Fr. Reynaldo Yu

Sept 23 Deacon Joseph Yuen

Sept 24 Deacon Gary Zellmer

Sept 25 Fr. Gary Zender

Sept 26 Deacon Stewart Adams

Sept 27 Deacon Scott Aikin

Sept 28 Deacon David Alcorta

Sept 29 Deacon Dan Allen

Sept 30 Deacon Ronald Allen

Oct 1 Pope Francis

Oct 2 Archbishop Paul Etienne

Oct 3 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSPS

Oct 4 Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg

Oct 5 Fr. Jim Northrop

Oct 6 Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar

Oct 7 Fr. Joseph Altenhofen

Oct 8 Fr. José Alvarez

Oct 9 Deacon John Amlag

Oct 10 Fr. Victor Raj Anas Dass

Oct 11 Deacon Mauricio Anaya

Oct 12 Fr. Michael Angelovic

Oct 13 Fr. Zevier Arockiam

Oct 14 Fr. Jockim Arulanantham

Oct 15 Fr. Albert Arulappan

Oct 16 Fr. Francis Arulappan

Oct 17 Deacon Bruno Bahk

Oct 18 Fr. James (Larry) Bailey

Oct 19 Fr. Kevin Ballard

Oct 20 Fr. Aloysio Kyeongseok Bang

Oct 21 Deacon Terry Barber

Oct 22 Fr. R. Roy Baroma

Oct 23 Deacon Samuel Basta

Oct 24 Deacon Bill Batstone

Oct 25 Fr. Michael Batterberry

Oct 26 Fr. Anthony Bawyn

Oct 27 Fr. Xavier Sengol Bazil

Oct 28 Fr. Ronald Belisle

Oct 29 Fr. Thomas Belleque

Oct 30 Deacon John Bergford

Oct 31 Deacon Raymond Biersbach

*Lord, lift up your holy priests; grant them the graces they need to administer to your people. Keep them pure and strong in your love; give them courage when things are difficult and accompany them when they are lonely; strengthen them in times of weakness. Amen.*



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**GLEANNINGS**  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020



*A Spring of Water Flowing*  
**in the Parched Land**  
**February 5-7, 2021**

**Save the Date for the 2021 WWCCR Women's Retreat!**  
And stay tuned for more information and registration details.