




GLEANINGS

Renewing the face of the earth  *Empowered by the Holy Spirit*

March/April 2017 - Volume XLIII Number 2

***“Now we have
received not
the spirit of the
world, but the
Spirit which
is from God,
that we might
understand the
gifts bestowed
on us by God.”***

*1 Corinthians 2:12,
RSVCE*

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Bananas and the Gift of Prophetic Joke-Telling

by Dean Tougas

About six years ago, at a moment of great trial in my life, I suddenly became aware of God's nearness to me. I was coping with the death of my wife, Theresa, and I noticed how the circumstances around the time of her death were filled with supernatural "coincidences" that carried me through my grief in a way that filled me with an unexpected peace. In fact, I began to have the distinct awareness that God was very close, speaking DIRECTLY to me about trusting Him and being at peace in His embrace.

He began to identify His voice for me through a series of "triple events." I would notice a "coincidence," such as hearing a song or a Scripture passage, in two unlikely places within hours of each other. Then, just when I was about to dismiss it as a coincidence, I would hear or read it a third time, with a distinct message attached. For example, I began hearing the song, "Be Still My Soul" at very meaningful times and places, which left little doubt that it was aimed directly at me.

God was reminding me that He loved me and that He was

orchestrating events all around me. When I realized that He was speaking directly to me, I could hardly believe it. I'd always believed that "God's voice" was broadly addressed to all believers at once; through Scripture or preaching. I was a "follower" of Jesus, a disciple, like those who followed him at a distance among the crowds of Galilee. But suddenly He was speaking to me as if He and I were alone together! And He must be listening to my prayer in a very personal way, too.

One day, in my car, I remember feeling His presence with me and knew He was listening. And because my life had been completely upended by Theresa's death, I cried out: "Lord! Tell me the plan! You keep telling me to be still and be at peace. Why don't you tell me your plan for my life? What should I do now?" I was astonished by how quickly and lovingly He answered that prayer.

Instantly, a bizarre memory jumped into my head. I recalled a time, more than 30 years before, when my dad was telling a joke. It was a joke that I'd long forgotten but



***Let us proclaim with jubilation
the majesty and power of God!***

Are you aware that we have entered into the Jubilee Year for the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church? Fifty years ago, on the weekend of February 17-19, students on retreat at The Ark and The Dove in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, were studying the Acts of the Apostles. They desired the power of God in their lives and prayed, asking God to pour out His Spirit upon them as He did for the Apostles in the upper room. And the rest, as they say, is history. There is a new Golden Jubilee Edition of the book *As By a New Pentecost* by Patti Gallagher Mansfield about the students, their stories and how that event shaped their lives. It is available in our bookstore.

To understand the salvation history of Jubilee, I invite you to read Leviticus 25 and Nehemiah 8; two different reasons to celebrate a year of Jubilee. Both are beneficial for us and give glory to God. In Leviticus, the Lord God instructed the people to observe a holy year of resting, reflecting on their sinfulness, seeking the forgiveness of God and forgiving one another, remembering the faithfulness of God and the freedom He brings to all His people. In Nehemiah, Jubilee was

a time of celebrating with jubilation all that God has done for His people. For example, after God parted the Red Sea to save the Israelites they celebrated for three days.

To Jubilate is to express great joy, to rejoice, to celebrate or to raise a shout of joy! St Augustine described it this way: "Joy that cannot be expressed in words. Yet the voice expresses what is conceived in the heart and cannot be explained in words. This is jubilation." Sounds like speaking in tongues to me. According to Eddie Ensley in *Sounds of Wonder*, "jubilation played a very real role in group worship and prayer; for hundreds of years it was a standard part of the Mass. The jubilation came after the singing of the alleluia, just before the Gospel during Mass... the people moved into exuberant wordless singing on vowel sounds. This jubilation could last for up to five minutes." This gave me great joy to read these words!

On April 1, we are going to gather for a Night of Worship in praise of our good God. Several different groups will be leading us. It will be a great opportunity to be jubilant, even in the middle of Lent! We will be dedicating the next issue of GLEANINGS to the subject of Jubilee so get excited and join us on April 1st at Immaculate Conception Church in Seattle from 7 – 10 PM (see ad on page 6).

WWCCR will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary in November. It is not only the 50th year of Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church, it is year one of the next 50 years. Let us pray: "Through the intercession of Jesus, Mary and Joseph may we fully embrace the many facets of this year of Jubilee. Amen."

God bless you!
Sue+

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:

Our mission is to renew the face of the earth by nurturing and inspiring Catholics:

- ◊ *To experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through baptism in the Holy Spirit*
- ◊ *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 monthly 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.

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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. For example, **items for the May/June 2017 issue are due April 1st.** All submissions subject to editing for length, accuracy and clarity.

now was hearing him tell again: “A guy walks into a bar and orders a drink. Then he notices another customer at the bar who has bananas sticking out of his ears.” My dad’s face was playful as he continued telling one of his favorite jokes: “He asks the bartender why the other guy has bananas in his ears and the bartender says: ‘I don’t know. He comes in here all the time. Maybe you should ask him.’ So the first fellow walks over to the other customer and says to him: ‘Hey! You!’ After a while, the guy with the bananas looks up, straining to hear. ‘Huh?’ So the first guy yells back: ‘Hey, do you know you have bananas in your ears?’ The guy with the bananas strains his face and cups his hand to his ears and yells back: ‘Sorry, I can’t hear you. You have to speak up. I’ve got these bananas in my ears.’”

At that moment, God imparted His two-part answer to me through the voice of my own dad telling one of his awful jokes. Message number one was: “When you can’t hear me speak to you, it’s NOT because I’m not speaking, or not speaking loudly or clearly enough. I’ve been speaking to you all the time, but you have bananas in your ears!” And His second, gentle but emphatic, message to me – His divine punch line: “Don’t be concerned about knowing My plan. I am your loving Father and what is most important is that we share an intimate relationship with each other.”

At this point, I was crying so uncontrollably that I was struggling to keep my car in its lane on the freeway. It was now TOO abundantly clear that the soft “voice” I had been hearing in my heart was VERY real and personal. I was overcome with awe and amazement that the almighty Creator would seek me out for a one-on-one “conversational” relationship.

Until then, I didn’t know this was possible for someone like me. For saints maybe, but not me. Not only was this possible, I had to conclude that He wants that kind of intimate relationship with each of us. But as I talked to people about this, most people did not seem to understand. But some others DID know. People I knew in prophetic and healing ministry at WWCCR knew exactly what I was talking about. They “normalized” this for me. They spoke of it as “prophetic” in the sense of hearing God speaking in the here-and-now.

In his book, *The Gift of Prophecy*, Fr. Robert DeGrandis writes: “The Lord wants to speak to us today

and He is going to speak to us today. The Lord wants to communicate to each individual His love and what He has for them. Why should He not communicate what He is thinking at the time, if we but ask? Indeed, prophecy is the gift of the Spirit to reveal the mind of God, the depths of God here and now (1 Cor. 2:10). This is prophecy. And it is for all.”

Prophecy for everyone? Really? Digging into this idea a little more, I learned that all Christians receive a prophetic anointing at baptism and that, like many of the sacramental anointings, it is empowered by baptism in the Holy Spirit. Prophecy is one of the primary charisms the Spirit bestows.

St. Paul ranks prophecy as the most important of the charisms:

- “Pursue love, but strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts, above all that you may prophesy.” (1 Cor. 14:1).
- “And so my brothers and sisters, strive eagerly to prophesy” (1 Cor. 14:39).

The gift of prophecy is obviously very important to our walk as Christians, but it is mysterious. It boggles the mind to contemplate God speaking to us individually to build up His Body. It defies our natural understanding and so it is often clouded in suspicion. But Paul asks us to seek after it, and that means prayer and study to better understand how to seek it and use it properly. And we can begin now.

Beginning in March, we are blessed that WWCCR is providing a 12-week course on the prophetic anointing and prophecy (*see calendar insert*). By participating in this course, we seek to move further into that intimate, one-on-one, conversational relationship with our loving Father. And though we seek his gifts, our true goal is intimacy with him – the relationship with the giver should be the desire of our hearts. By being open to his love, he will help us get the bananas out of our ears, so we can hear his voice more clearly. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Prophecy course.

Dean Tougas was elected Secretary this year and serves as Treasurer on the WWCCR Board of Directors. He is a member of the Dwelling Place team and, with his wife Misty, is a member of St. Pius X parish in Mountlake Terrace, WA.

Those words cut straight to the marrow for me and for others present as well. We were all talking about it. You are the great physician and in You alone do I place my trust. I give You permission to mold me and make me more like You, to make my heart into Yours.

This weekend was transformative in so many ways. I loved learning about the angels too... guardian angels, the cherubim, seraphim and all the others, all nine choirs of angels who adore You and serve as Your messengers. I realized that I too am a messenger. We all are. And, with hearts burning, we worshiped You on earth as it is in heaven. I felt You with us; we felt Your presence healing, stirring and drawing us close. We encountered Your love, O God, in such deep and tangible ways. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, at Holy Mass, in worship, in Fran, in each other and even in a found penny on the floor, we found You ("in God we trust")!

Thank You for the great gift of Bishop Peter Smith. How blessed we were to have him share the retreat for the second year in a row. He radiates such joy and Your Spirit is ever present on his lips.

If I may ask a favor after all You've done already: please bless in abundance the team who gave so much of themselves and endured such trials for the sake of others. They gave unceasingly in ways we will never know. But, You saw it all, and I pray blessing upon blessing and grace upon grace for all the prayers and hard work that made February 3-5 life changing for me and for all.

I remain forever grateful of Your great love,
Your daughter

It was rainy and dreary outside the retreat house but very sunny inside the hearts of 82 women of all ages who experienced the love of God in the many ways expressed in the letter above. The theme at this year's Women's Retreat was "I thank you God with all my heart." Psalm 138:1. We have been hosting an annual women's retreat for 20 years. This year many women asked and received the baptism in the Holy Spirit for the first time. Thank You, Jesus! Pray that some year soon we will host a retreat for men.

- Sue Gallwas, Executive Director of WWCCR



Dwelling Place - a God encounter

Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people...He will wipe every tear from their eyes and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain." Revelation 21:3-4

Dwelling Place Healing Nights

now in 2 locations each month

Monday, March 20

Monday, April 17

7:30 to 9:30 pm

St. Pius X Church

22209 58th Ave W

Mountlake Terrace, WA

Monday, March 27

Monday, April 24

7:30 to 9:00 pm

St. Stephen the Martyr Church

13055 SE 192nd St.

Renton, WA

Sponsored by

Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal

www.wwccr.org/healing-ministry/dwelling-place-healing-nights/



Our Eucharistic Chapel is available for private prayer any time during office hours, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Join us on Fridays from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. as we pray for your intentions, charismatic renewal, and the work of WWCCR!

Office Masses:

Wednesday, March 8, 11:00 AM

Fr. Cal Christiansen

Monday, March 27, 7:00 PM

Fr. Tony Bawyn

Wednesday, April 12, 11:00 AM

Fr. Cal Christiansen

Words of Thanks and Praise from the 2017 Women's Retreat

"My healing is **peace of mind** and **greater love for others**. Shine the light brighter! Thank you!"

"Saturday night was an experience of **freedom and power**."

"I feel that God's plan for me is where I am right now; that He hears my prayers; that He will take care of me. He is asking me to have faith and continue to pray. **Prayer works!**"

"I realized a new depth of giftedness in the Lord's healing gifts. Praise the Lord!"

"I was able to work through many layers of emotional baggage."

"I felt God powerfully and deeply in our worship – especially Saturday evening. I came away **refreshed and peaceful!**"


"Through the prayer team ministry I received healing as I asked for the stone of criticism to be rolled away from my heart and the fear to be healed. I prayed that the light of Jesus who stands before us, resurrected, would remove the blind spots so I can see more clearly."

"This was a wonderful retreat. I feel **renewed and filled up** and **back on track** with Jesus and the Holy Spirit."


"I feel more peaceful, hopeful, better able to handle what the world will throw at me. This has been the best retreat. The Holy Spirit came with all the power – entering into every cell of our being – God is good!"

"I am grateful to step inside from the outside world into a safe retreat house focusing on the Lord at all times with others who are hungry and thirsty for Jesus."

July 20—23, 2017 50th Jubilee Catholic Charismatic Celebration Lawrence Convention Center Pittsburgh, PA



"And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan."
Lev. 25:10



Time for a family reunion



You're invited to a Family Reunion!

THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUPS INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN PITTSBURGH TO A FAMILY REUNION OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE TASTED AND SHARED IN THIS CURRENT OF GRACE, BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

NSC English Sessions on Friday and Saturday
Speakers include:

Patti Gallagher Mansfield, Damian Stayne, Vinson Synan, Bishop Sam Jacobs, Dr. Ralph Martin, Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan, Sr. Nancy Kellar, Mary Healy, Dave VanVickle, Fr. Dave Pivonka, Mark Nimo, Dave Mangan, Bruce T. Yocum and many more leaders and surprises of the Spirit to share over the weekend!

Give the Gift of Your Encouragement!

Are you part of a prayer group and want to share your experience with others who are interested in learning more? Send us your story! Please contact the editor, Alane Howard, if you are interested in having your prayer group featured in GLEANINGS.

Contact the editor at:
alane@wwccr.org

Submissions must be
400 words or less.



Mass *with Prayers for Healing and Empowerment*

Celebrant:

Bishop Peter Smith

Masses with Prayers for Healing and Empowerment are sponsored by WWCCR, by prayer groups and parishes in various locations in the archdiocese of Seattle. At these Masses we are focusing our attention on the healing power of God truly present at every celebration of the Eucharist.

***April 21, 2017
at 7:00 pm***

Praise & Worship music starts at 6:45 pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church
400 S Andresen Road
Vancouver, WA 98661



NIGHT OF WORSHIP

APRIL 1st AT 7 pm

TONY D'ANGELO | PAT D'ANGELO | DENNIS ZENDER
GABBY HERNDON | BRIDGETTE RUEFF | TESS MAGIN

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
180 18TH AVE, SEATTLE, WA 98112



Sponsored by Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal
For more information contact WWCCR (206) 364-2272, www.wwccr.org or email us at healing@wwccr.org

School of Prayer Ministry

by Ron McNerney

In the past I have been asked the question, "Why do you need a class to teach people how to pray?"

My answer is simple. Deep down inside, everyone really already knows how to pray. We are simply offering insights as to how to minister, through prayer, to those we encounter. For lack of a better term, there are different "styles" of prayer that are available to the prayer minister. The School of Prayer Ministry is offering additional "tools" to help the prayer teams connect with those they are praying for.

The School of Prayer Ministry is a year-long commitment, with classes on the third (and fifth) Saturdays of the month. It is a full day, from nine o'clock in the morning to five o'clock in the afternoon. A typical class day consists of praise and worship/prayer time, introduction presentations by SPM team members, and viewing a DVD followed by general discussion of the materials presented. During the class day, students and facilitators break into small groups to pray and practice what they have been discussing.

While attending the School of Prayer Ministry, students are exposed to a variety of topics with over 45 lessons presented. Some of the topics include: praying for physical, inner, and generational healing; healing in marriage and divorce; abortion and miscarriage; suffering, depression and mental illness; post-traumatic stress disorder; spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry; spiritual, sexual, physical and emotional abuse; and hearing God and praying with authority.

There is a mini Life in the Spirit Seminar presented and Mass is celebrated three times, once each level. Classes will be held at:

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish
13055 SE 192nd St, Renton WA

If you want more information or have specific questions please contact me, Ron McNerney, via email: ron.mcnerney@yahoo.com or by phone: 206-478-2782.



Let us celebrate Pentecost together!

When: Saturday, June 3rd at 7:00 pm

Where: St. Louise Catholic Church in
Bellevue

Sponsored by WWCCR
and the Renewed in Christ Prayer Group



Financial Update

The ending balance for 2016 was \$14,398.35

Because of hundreds of faithful donors like you we were able to replace our roof and end the year in the black. Thank you, thank you, thank you! We are looking forward to a busy year ahead as we celebrate our 40th year anniversary! Remember to share your story with your friends. How will they know if you don't tell them about Jesus and His love for them. God bless you with His Holy Spirit every day!



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GLEANNINGS
March/April 2017

Inside this March/April 2017 issue: Theme article, **Bananas and the Gift of Prophetic Joke-Telling** pages 1 & 3 **From Sue's Desk** page 2 **IPN Prayer Intentions, Pray for Our Priests and NEW Calendar** see insert, **Testimonies, Mass Announcement, and School of Prayer Ministry** pages 5, 6 & 7

A Prayer of Gratitude after the 2017 Women's Retreat

Dear Lord,

How can I begin to express my gratitude for the abundant grace poured out at the 2017 Women's Retreat with Fran Karpiej? She was a treasure, sharing tidbits of heavenly wisdom, challenging me to not simply be present and listen but to "experience" the teachings, and how to take hold of everyday blessings and to recognize the subtle ways You are present and revealing purpose, beauty and grace. I heard encouraging and sometimes difficult words that stirred my heart to go deeper and discover more about myself and this journey called faith, and to place in my "pocket" the things I hold dear, snapshots of life only my heart can interpret. And then I heard this prophetic message shared by one of the ladies and I had to ask for a copy so it could be shared with the world:

"You ask me for a new heart, but what I have created in you is perfect. I will refine your heart to make your heart into Mine. I will take your heart and make it beautiful. You do not need a new heart. You need My Heart. Ask me for My Heart and I will make yours into Mine."

Prayer continued on page 4