

# EAGER, EQUIPPED AND SENT by Fr. Cal Christiansen

Most priests, when they are ordained, have ordination prayer cards made which are given to the faithful in order for them to keep that newly ordained priest in their prayers. Usually on the back of the ordination prayer card is a particular prayer or scripture verse that is meaningful for that priest. On the back of my ordination prayer card I had this passage written from the Old Testament book of Sirach: "My child, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of adversity. Cling to him, do not leave him, that you many prosper in your last days" (2:1-3). This passage from Sirach speaks to me in a powerful way about what lies at the very heart and center of our Catholic Christian Faith—hope. It is a form of hope that St. Julian of Norwich summarized in a beautiful way when she said: "And all shall be well. And all manner of things shall be exceeding well." That is to say, whatever trials and sufferings that we experience in the present will, through God's grace and our constant faithfulness to that grace, turn out in such a way that our greatest good and that of the people around us will be achieved. This is not a 'Pollyanna' type of hope but rather one that comes from a faith that is deeply rooted in the love and providence of our Heavenly

Father. I think what the author of Sirach was trying to say was, "God's got this!"

We experienced this incredible transformational hope of God's providential love for us during the recent Encounter Northwest Conference held at my parish of St. Pius X last June. It is my firm conviction that this event was a powerful and unique moment of grace for us in the Renewal as God's transformational presence and healing was experienced in amazing and beautiful ways. Fr. Mathias Thelen, Patrick Ries, Peter Herbeck and the other conference keynote speakers and facilitators led the many hundreds of participants through life-changing encounters with the Risen Lord through the Holy Spirit. This was most especially evident through the gift

of 'impartation' that lies in many ways at the heart of Encounter Ministry's charism.

While there were many testimonials of healing that occurred during the course of the

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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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#### INSPIRATIONS FROM FR. JIM NORTHROP WWCCR Spiritual Director

## WHAT SAILING TAUGHT ME ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Many years ago, I went on my first sailing trip in Southern California while joining my classmates for a five year reunion. This was the first time I had ever gone sailing and I had no idea how complex it was to maneuver a sailboat. It takes a lot of knowledge to know how to trim the sails, assess the wind speed, etc. We were constantly being asked to "pull this" or "hold that" while our captain ran around making sure we didn't tip over.

Thinking about this excursion, I realized how much our spiritual life parallels sailing. We have to have knowledge about where we are headed in our lives, familiarity with ourselves and what's going on, and we can't always predict nor control the things around us. All we can do is stay alert and call upon the Lord to help us through the storms and difficulties of life.

Let us pray for the grace of perseverance as we charter new horizons and challenges in the future. In many ways these are very challenging times for us as a Church. May God confirm and strengthen all of us on our journey of faith. May the Holy Spirit be the wind in our sails and Jesus our Captain.

#### OFFICE NOTES BY JEAN BEERS

Northwest Encounter has had a dramatic effect on hundreds of people, even on those who did not attend the conference, like me. I was inspired when I heard the enthusiastic report of the dynamic sessions from two conference participants. Their description of the teaching, healings and prayer ministry renewed in me the realization that Jesus heals today, body, soul and spirit. He truly is in our midst in the power of the Holy Spirit.

WWCCR provided book ministry for Northwest Encounter, hosted by St. Pius X parish at the invitation of pastor Fr. Cal

#### JESUS HEALS TODAY

Christiansen. Fr. Cal's article on page one describes the presence of Jesus in the midst of trials and challenges, healings and impartations, empowerment and mission.

In this issue we introduce a new GLEANINGS column, Inspirations From The WWCCR Spiritual Director, Fr. Jim Northrop. Daniel Stoneking writes of his transformative experience at the Encounter conference. Karen Klobucher testifies to the presence of Jesus that strengthens her through the rigors of recovery from surgery. May these testimonies renew in you the realization that Jesus heals today.



<sup>(</sup>Continues from p. 1)

conference, I wanted to share three of them. A young man testified that the Lord had healed an autoimmune condition that had affected his esophagus which had caused him to throw up regularly. A man was healed of a serious neck pain. He experienced a cold presence over the site of the pain followed by intense heat, which all led to the release of all pain and greater freedom of motion. A woman was healed of double vision in her eyes which had come from a concussion. She was able to see without glasses. Praise the Lord! I was able to clearly see within these physical healings as well as in the many other emotional and spiritual healings, those powerful words from Sirach come to life: "Be sincere of heart and steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of adversity. Cling to him, do not leave him, that you many prosper in your last days." God's got this, remember!?

So often in our own lives the difficulties, challenges, anxieties and sufferings that we all experience can cause us to recoil both physically and spiritually. When we are in any sort of pain or discomfort we can fall into the trap of withdrawing and distancing ourselves from God and others. This is a result of our fallen condition. God, however, continually reaches out to us and, waits for us to extend our hearts and hands to him in spite of our brokenness and sinfulness. The good news is that God never disappoints in showering us with blessings when we choose to emerge from ourselves and open our hearts and lives to Him.

Jesus revealed this reality of the loving and reconciling will of the Father when he preached the parable of the Prodigal Son: "because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began" (Lk 15:24). God wants to break into our lives with mercy and healing. The first step is always to open our hearts and say "yes, Lord" to the life and love that He wants to flood us with each and every day. Encounter Northwest made this essential truth of our Faith evident and concrete for each of us who attended. This is the foundation of the tremendous hope that we have as the Body of Christ.

During the powerful experience of 'impartation' which occurred at the Encounter Northwest Conference on Saturday night, Fr. Mathias reminded us that this gift of the Spirit that we could choose to receive was intended for equipping us for mission and evangelization. God's gifts of love, life and healing are not meant to be kept to ourselves but are meant to be used by us who receive those gifts for the building up of the Kingdom!

Pope Francis reminds us of this in a powerful way in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel): "Goodness always tends to spread. Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us, and any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes more sensitive to the needs of others" (9). God wants to break into our lives in order to make us whole and to fill us with his Spirit of life and freedom so as to equip us to be instruments of grace for others. This is the great hope that we have as God's children and the good news is that our good and loving Father never fails to keep his promises to us, never!

Fr. Cal Christianson is the pastor of St. Pius X parish in Mountlake Terrace.

## **ENCOUNTER NORTHWEST TESTIMONY**

# ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS by Daniel Stoneking

"The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants to receive the gift of the life-giving water." (Rev 22:17). This "coming" of the thirsty seeking the life-giving water is what occurred at the Northwest Encounter Ministries 2019 Conference. We as a people came hungry, we came thirsty, we came seeking more of the Lord! We received more than we could possibly imagine!

This Encounter Conference was a supernatural event from beginning to end. I experienced the love of God through the praise and worship, inspirational talks and the fellowship of the hundreds in attendance. However, one of the most empowering experiences came during an inner healing session given by Sarah Kaczmarek. During this session Sarah led us through an inner healing process in which we invited Jesus into our imagination and asked Him to take us to a memory He wanted to heal and make His presence known. Many in attendance experienced great healing as evidenced by all the emotion being expressed in the room.

During this meditation I encountered Jesus in my imagination

as He walked me towards a brand new 1970's hunter green Corvette which was sitting in the corner of a parking lot under the shade of an oak tree. As I approached the car I heard the Lord say to me, "I have set you apart—I have preserved you." I followed with the question, "You have set me apart for what?" There was silence but the vision within my imagination now displayed the passenger door being opened. As I looked into the car through the passenger side I could see all the details of the car such as the shiny black leather bucket seats and the 5-speed gear box in the center console. My attention was then drawn to the steering wheel which was being held by the hands of Jesus. I knew in my heart that I was being invited into a new life, a new journey and Jesus was in control. I entered this shiny new Corvette and, with the windows rolled down, began to ride the countryside with Jesus.

This vision has multiple layers for discernment and makes for great reflection, but I left that experience with a changed heart. I experienced a greater depth and intimacy in my identity as a brother in Christ. My trust in the Lord's provision and providence



grew stronger. And, as I begin to believe that the Lord truly has set me apart and does have a specific plan for my life, the love of God swells within me.

I had many encounters with the love of God at this conference but since returning, I have had a greater love and joy in my daily prayer life and in my interactions with others. I truly believe that this encounter with the love of Jesus will continue to be very transformative for me and for my ministry as a prayer group leader and psychiatric RN. Thank you, Encounter Ministries and for all those who worked so hard in putting on this conference. Praise You, Jesus, for Your goodness and love!

Daniel Stoneking is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Kelso.

## LORD JESUS, WE PRAY THAT THESE MEN, UNITED TO YOU THROUGH PRAYER AND SACRAMENT, MAY COOPERATE WITH YOU IN BUILDING YOUR REIGN OF MERCY AND TRUTH, OF JUSTICE AND PEACE. AMEN.

## (ADAPTED FROM POPE FRANCIS)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE PRIESTS, DEACONS AND SEMINARIANS

Sept 1 Pope Francis Sept 2 Archbishop J. Peter Sartain Sept 3 Archbishop Paul Etienne	Oct 1 Pope Francis Oct 2 Archbishop J. Peter Sartain Oct 3 Archbishop Paul Etienne	SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER INTERCESSORY
Sept 4 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS Sept 5 Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg Sept 6 Fr. Jim Northrop Sept 7 Dcn. Bruno Bahk Sept 8 Fr. Larry Bailey	Oct 4 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS Oct 5 Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg Oct 6 Fr. Jim Northrop Oct 7 Fr. Edward Brodsky Oct 8 Fr. Paul Brunet	PRAYER NETWORK We know that PRAYER changes EVERYTHING!
Sept 9 Fr. Charles M. Banduku Sept 10Fr. Aloysio Bang Sept 11Michael Barbarossa, seminarian Sept 12 Dcn. Terry Barber Sept 13 Fr. R. Roy Baroma Jr	Oct 9Archbishop Alexander J. BrunetOct 10Fr. Jack BuckalewOct 11Fr. John J. BulgerOct 12Fr. Gerald BurnsOct 13Fr. Glen Butterworth	t God our Father, Draw us close and teach us how to love without reserve.
Sept 14 Dcn Samuel Basta Sept 15 Dcn. Bill Batstone Sept 16 Fr. Michael J. Batterberry Sept 17 Fr. Anthony E. Bawyn, JCD Sept 18 Fr. Xavier Bazil	Oct 14 Fr. Robert A. Camuso Oct 15 Fr. Francisco Cancino Oct 16 Fr. Paul Binh The Cao Oct 17 Dcn. Adolfo Carbajal Oct 18 Dcn. Antonio Cavazos Oct 10 Sylvector Chanda cominarian	Lord Jesus, May you radiate through us so brightly that others will be drawn to the light; Your light, shining in and
Sept 19 Fr. Ronald H. Belisle Sept 20 Fr. Thomas A. Belleque Sept 21 Dcn. John Bergford Sept 22 Dcn Ray Biersbach Sept 23 Fr. Phillip A. Bloom Sept 24 Fr. Eugeniusz Bolda	Oct 19 Sylvester Chanda, seminarian Oct 20 Dcn. Carl Chilo Oct 21 Dcn. Kwok Chin Oct 22 Fr. Cal R. Christianson Oct 23 Dcn. Buddy Clapham Oct 24 Fr. Timothy J. Clark	through your people. Holy Spirit, May we always be docile to the power of your
Sept 25 Fr. Jay Bonete Sept 26 Fr. Martin J. Bourke Sept 27 Fr. John J. Bowman Sept 28 Fr. Jordan C. Bradshaw, OP Sept 29 Fr. David A. Brant Sept 30 Fr. Benjamin Bray	Oct 25 Fr. Patrick S. Clark Oct 26 Fr. Raymond V. Cleaveland Oct 27 Dcn Richard Combs Oct 28 Fr. Marlin J. Connole Oct 29 Fr. K. Scott Connolly Oct 30 Dcn. Joseph Connor	presence alive within us. Mother Mary, Intercede for us your children, as we seek to follow your Son.
	Oct 31 Fr. James P. Coyne	

# THE CHALLENGES OF AN EAGER DISCIPLE by Karen Klobucher

Thomas Keating has expressed that a true relationship with Jesus is unique to each individual. It is personal and perhaps only understood by that individual. Keating also interprets the Holy Spirit's gift of suffering as patience.

My spiritual journey holds both of these statements to be true.

Twice in my life, I have been presented with physical conditions requiring preparing and waiting for surgeries. I was diagnosed to be bone on bone in need of a hip replacement at age 50 in 1999. As modern replacements of today were not available in the U.S. yet and my 11 and 12 year old daughters needed an ambulatory mother, I trusted that Jesus would see me through. He took my hand and walked me through the pain for five years while waiting for the modern replacement procedure to come to America and my children to graduate from high school. Grace upon grace was bestowed upon me.

In the 5th year of waiting, I had the privilege of being asked by WWCCR to coordinate a Healing Mass with Father Robert Faricy as the speaker at my parish, St. George. With no experience in these matters, and a serious limp, I trusted in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit to administrate as well as make arrangements for food. The church overflowed with people from all over the state. My friends and family, many who are of other faiths, still talk today of the powerful, touching and healing evening.

Recently, I was asked by a surgeon to retrain a life long physical behavior to be ready for a repair of an internal organ. Jesus was there every step of the way for the preparation.

Thomas Keating and many others encourage us to give our whole lives, every part, to Jesus. The Holy Spirit can then guide each and every thought and action.

Sometimes we are asked to sit with the discomforts of the human condition, developing patience as we seek to give it all to Jesus. Who else better to keep us company as we mend?

Karen Klobucher is a member of Immaculate Conception parish in Seattle.

#### **2019** National Leaders' & Ministries' Conference

# Come HOLY SPIRIT

#### **NOVEMBER 8-10 HILTON ST. LOUIS AIRPORT**



SPEAKERS: Matt Maher (Friday evening only), Paul George, Mary Healy, Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC and Archbishop Robert Carlson.

ALSO SPEAKING: Jimmy Archer, Jim Beckman, David Bisonó, Matt Bourgeois, Gloria Coyne, Dan and Caroline Dirkes, John Gresham, Bill Marcotte, Jessica Navin and Fr. Anthony Ouellette.

Others to be named.

MUSIC: Carrie Bajzath and Friends from St. Louis.

#### REGISTRATION RATES:

Until May 31, \$69 Individual / \$125 Married Couple \$40 Young Adult (35 and under) June 1 until August 31, \$89 / \$165 / \$40 After August 31, \$99 / \$185 / \$40

Information / Registration 1-800-338-2445 www.nsc-chariscenter.org

# **UPCOMING WWCCR EVENTS**

Don't miss these amazing opportunities!

Wednesday, September 18th | 11am-1pm Acts of the Apostles bible study begins @ WWCCR office 936 N. 143rd St. Seattle

Saturday, September 28th | 10am-2pm How to Give A Testimony workshop, Andrea Garcia Your story is powerful, learn how to tell your story. @ WWCCR office 936 N. 143rd St. Seattle

### SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, November 3rd | 1:30-4:30pm "I'm With You Always" WWCCR Gathering and Commissioning

@ St. Thomas Church, 4415 S. 140th St., Tukwila

For information about other upcoming events, watch for our weekly emails or check out our website at wwccr.org

## Please join us for

**Bible Study** 

Sponsored by WWCCR

with Jeff

## Wednesday mornings 11 AM - 1 PM beginning September 18, a 20-week study

Cost for homework book and share in video cost: \$35.00 Includes homework, group discussion, shared light lunch and a video presentation

What have others said about this study?

"There was an occasion that I did volunteer work at WWCCR. Because many hands worked together, we were done before 11:am. A Bible Class began at 11 am and we were invited to attend. I can say I enjoyed the class and I kept going back until we finished the book we were studying. I've learned so much from Jeff Cavin's outstanding Presentation and explanation of the lesson that was covered at every meeting. Another class will start this September. Come join us." "I am so looking forward to the Bible Study this Fall. I enjoyed it greatly all of last year."

"I heartily endorse any Bible Study that includes lectures by Jeff Cavins. He is a scholar's scholar of Scripture. The text gets you to really think. I expect the study of Acts of the Apostles will be enlightening and fulfilling as the other studies."

Meet at WWCCR Office, 936 N 143rd Street, Seattle More information: Contact Bobbie Brown, 206-363-8704



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WWCCR Women's Retreat Christ has no body now but yours Feb 28-March 1, 2020

Come ready to surrender to the new things God wants to do in your life. God has a marvelous plan. He desires to use you to build the Kingdom of God in your area of influence. You will receive the greatest joy and will bear the most fruit when you surrender to faith in Him.

Registration open now! wwccr.org or 206-364-2272 Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gitts. 1 Cor 12:31