

# GLEANINGS

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

November/December 2020

Volume XLVI Number 6



## THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

God Will Always Make a Way

by Fr. Jim Northrop

The story of the Flight into Egypt recorded in Saint Matthew's Gospel (Mt 2:13-15) is a powerful reminder of how God provides for us even in the midst of disappointing experiences.

Mary and Joseph had just experienced the birth of their son,

Jesus. At a time when they should have been able to relax and enjoy this monumental and life-changing event, instead they must flee for the safety of Jesus. They are pressed by the forces of evil via Herod's crazy thirst for power. I remember well the line in Franco Zeffirelli's miniseries *Jesus of Nazareth* where Herod yells, "I refuse to share my power with anyone."

Joseph was a wonderful custodian and protector of Jesus, and the angel announcing to him that he must flee is a beautiful reminder that God always takes care of His children. Matthew also sees this event as a fulfillment of the words of the prophet Hosea, "Out of Egypt I called my son" (Hosea 11:1).

Egypt was the land of slavery for the Israelites. They made their Exodus from the land of Egypt to the promised land and yet Mary and Joseph return there with Jesus. Isn't this just a reminder that God's grace is greater than all of the forces of evil we encounter in our lives? God is always at work doing amazing things especially when we have to rearrange our plans and things don't always go the way we think they should go. There is no land or area of our lives that isn't touchable by God's

grace. We often want to avoid going back to painful memories and events in our lives because we think that they were devoid of God's grace or somehow not part of His plan for us. This is where we need to remember the words of St. Paul that, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

The past seven months have been very challenging for all of us with the COVID 19 virus. Out of concern for our safety and the safety of others, we have all had to modify our plans and cancel many events that we were looking forward to enjoying. I know many of my parishioners have been out of work and are growing anxious about how they are going to provide for their

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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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## INSPIRATION FROM FR. JIM NORTHROP WWCCR Spiritual Director

### LET US PREPARE

I cannot begin to impress upon you that we are in a time of preparation. I firmly believe that many challenging situations are on the horizon for us. I hope and pray that all followers of Jesus Christ will take this time to deepen their prayer life and to pray for the gift of discernment.

These are difficult times. So many of the institutions we thought were reliable are weak and failing. God is allowing things to be shaken up so as to help us focus our attention on His divine plan of salvation. A lot of the world no longer believes in the Gospel. Many countries that were once Christian or influenced by Christianity have turned away from the Lord and are seeking power apart from God.

This is not a time for believers to panic but a time to pray that we sink our roots deep into the wellspring of Grace that God is offering us. In the book of Amos, we are reminded, "Indeed, the Lord God does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

We must remember the great prayer of St. John XXIII, "Lord renew your Church with signs and wonders as by a new Pentecost." God wants us to open our hearts to receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to help us fulfill the mission of the Church.

Let us prepare for a glorious outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Lord promised this gift in the Acts of the Apostles. *Bring it on! Amen!* ■

### OFFICE NOTES FROM JEAN BEERS Interim Office Manager

### COVID AND CONSTRUCTION

Beginning in January 2021, construction will begin on a seven-story apartment complex next door to the WWCCR office. This unforeseen development is causing us to seriously consider the need to re-locate the headquarters of the WWCCR ministry. However, the vision and mission of WWCCR does not change. People still need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out their Christian lives. The way we serve the Church is not dependent on a physical building. An office base can be located somewhere else.

Already, because of the pandemic, WWCCR has been operating with a new normal: limited gatherings, six-foot social distancing, masks, working from home, and Zoom meetings. We are in a time of change. WWCCR still has the same mission even in the midst of Covid, construction and change. We ask for your prayers and participation as we move forward. Join the Board in prayer and fasting on Wednesdays, share your ideas, but mostly by your support as we do this together. (See *article on Intercession page 4, Prayer to St. Joseph page 7.*) ■



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families. We, too, have to believe that God is allowing us to experience this painful event to bring some kind of good out of it.

God, our Father, sent His only begotten Son into the world to show us that by trusting in Him, we can overcome our sins and the reality of human suffering and learn to live a life that is focused on loving God and loving people. As Paul reminds us in Romans, “Where sin abounds grace abounds all the more” (Romans 5:20).

I will never forget in my own life how sad and disappointed I was when my Aunt Lynn (Godmother) became ill with cancer. At one point in this difficult journey, we were told that she was miraculously healed from the cancer. As a fourteen-year-old teenager I received the word with great joy. I prayed for her healing and God answered my prayers. A few years later, I discovered the doctors were wrong. The cancer wasn’t all gone and had spread and would eventually end her life at the age of 47. I felt so let down and disappointed. How could a good and loving God

allow such a thing to happen? I began to withdraw in my heart and started growing cynical about the power of prayer. I knew something was terribly wrong with me and didn’t want to allow my heart to become hardened. One night, after hearing a powerful testimony from a speaker in our Confirmation class, I followed the speaker’s suggestion that I needed to lay all of my disappointments in front of Jesus and invite Him into my heart to be the Lord and Savior of my life. That was a life-changing decision and by the end of that year in high school, I was convinced God was calling me to become a Catholic priest. God’s amazing love brought something beautiful out of what I thought was just a tragedy. I remember this event whenever I am disappointed in how things are going in my life. It was as if the Lord was saying, “I’m not through with you and if you trust in Me, I will show you that I am very much at work in your life especially in sufferings and tragedies.” There is nothing too great for God’s grace to reach down and surprise us. Thirty years later, while I was attending Steubenville Northwest in Spokane (2016), the Lord had

a powerful experience for me during Eucharistic Adoration that reminded me of this truth. I was reduced to tears at His goodness during this event.

The Flight into Egypt reminds us that God will always make a way for us. We don’t always understand how God is working with us when we have to alter our plans and make changes in our lives. We must believe that God allows things to happen for a greater purpose. That’s why we love our crucifixes as Catholics. Something that looks horrific and difficult to gaze on turns out to be the most enduring sign of God’s love for us. From the cross Jesus redeemed us from our sins and then poured out His amazing love through the Holy Spirit.

God is very much at work through all of our experiences in life. Prayer will help us grasp this truth more effectively.

The Flight into Egypt reminds us that God will make a way for us. Our world is very fallen and so often not seeking God’s ways. Let’s pray for attentiveness to His divine plan for us and growth in discernment. ■



# Reflection On Intercession and a Prayer To St. Joseph

by Virginia King

“God is love...Love consists in this; not that we have loved God but that he has loved us and has sent his Son as an offering for our sins. Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another.”

(1 John 4:8,10,11) The “one another” in this scripture extends from us to our brothers and sisters who are already in heaven, those holy souls in purgatory and those still on earth with us, and vice versa. We

all can pray for one another, which is the most loving thing we can do. Why? Because praying on behalf of another is a sign of hearts attuned to God’s mercy! (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2635) That is love! That is what intercession is all about!

During these months of November and December, our attention is drawn to the communion of saints. We celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. We celebrate multiple feasts of our Blessed Mother, and we commemorate many other great heroes of our faith. We are meant to realize that our participation in the communion of saints is a tangible expression of our participation in the love of God.

We look to others in the communion of saints to pray for us for our particular needs, and to pray with us for our common needs. So, when we have a particular need, we probably ask our friends and family members to pray for us. When I was diagnosed with cancer, I asked everyone I knew to pray for me and my family. And many

who prayed for this particular need, also asked various saints in heaven to pray for us as well. I was enveloped in prayer!

During this time of Covid19, we are praying and asking others to pray with us, for an end to this pandemic, and for the many other intentions that emerge from it. This is a common need for which we join together in intercession. Those of us on earth, and those in heaven

are joined together in common intercession. The whole world is enveloped in prayer!

Here on earth we rely completely on the Holy Spirit to guide our prayers, so that they will bear fruit. Our sole desire in praying for others is that the will of our Heavenly Father be accomplished in both particular needs and in the common needs

of our world. One of the great blessings of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is that we learn to rely on His guidance in our prayers. Day by day, year by year, we grow in our ability to be effective intercessors.

At the WWCCR office, the volunteers gather regularly to pray for the many needs that are sent in. We encourage you

to send us your prayer requests, by mail, email, or phone call. You can leave a message on the answering machine, and it will be transcribed. All these intentions are prayerfully read aloud in the adoration chapel, and gathered in a box to be included in the prayers of the faithful at the Masses that are celebrated at the office. In addition, we pray for the priests, deacons and seminarians of our Archdiocese each month, and their names are published in the *Gleanings* newsletter, so that you can easily be part of enveloping them in prayer.

We also ask your intercession for the work of WWCCR. The Lord has given us a unique and vital mission of fostering baptism in the Holy Spirit, and this ministry absolutely must be enveloped in prayer! As you may have read in “Office Notes” on page 2, we need prayer for a very particular intention. We are asking the whole communion of

saints to intercede for us, and in a special way, we ask the intercession of St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Family and patron of the universal Church. Throughout November and December, please pray to St. Joseph with us, using the suggested prayer on page 7.



The WWCCR Chapel, where your mailed-in prayer intentions are prayed for and presented to the Lord.

Photo: Kellie Schneider

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# Messages from God

by Cheryl Bryant

In March of 2020 our entire country screeched to a halt. Overnight I was informed that I would no longer be able to attend Mass, participate in prayer ministry or spend time with my family. I was told that I would live in complete isolation for an undetermined amount of time. I desperately needed to feel the presence of God and began to pray (sometimes beg) God to speak to me. I needed assurance and I needed direction. I heard in my head, "Your answers are in the bible. They were written before you asked." As I began to pray with my bible open, I was led to some beautiful messages from God. The messages sometimes expounded on a favorite verse and other times were new for me.

I began with **Philippians 4:6-7**: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

I had memorized those verses long ago and I've repeated them often. I have even prayed them with others. While looking at these favorite verses and

praying, I noticed something new. Immediately preceding "my" verses, were the words, "The Lord is near." Praise God! I was not alone.

As I prayed, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" I was surprised to see that in Philippians (once again) my answer was very clear. **Philippians 4:9** says, "Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." That verse had been right in front of me all along but was only highlighted for me after I asked.

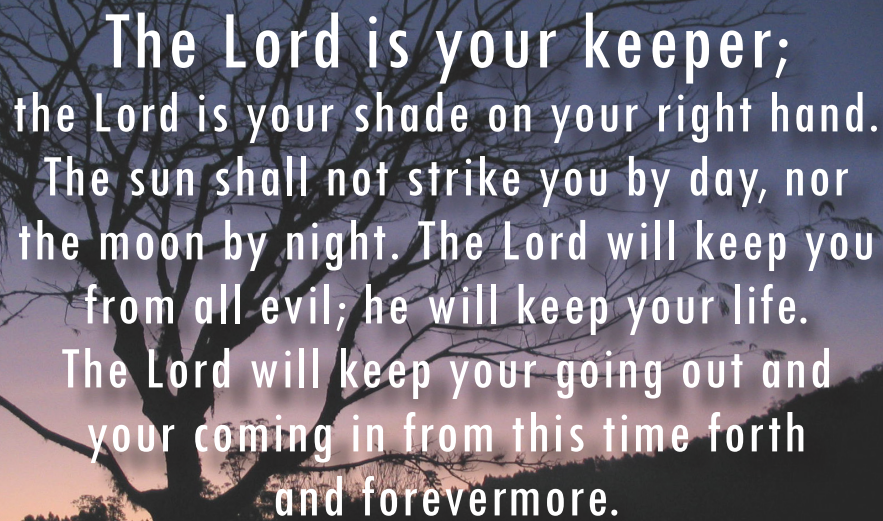
I found that during this very unsettling time Psalm 91 was very comforting. I pray Psalm 91 every night during my evening prayer. I often insert my own name before certain verses. I especially love **Psalm 91:11-12**, "For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you lest you strike your foot against a stone." What a beautiful vision!

A message that I was led directly to while praying is **Deuteronomy 6:4-7**, "The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall

love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up." Once again, I had very clear instructions from God.

During this time of difficulty, God has often answered my prayers through scripture. He has given me assurance, love and direction. I have marked these verses and return to them often to remind myself that I am not alone. "Do not fear I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." **Isaiah 41:10** ■

*Cheryl Bryant is a member of St. Pius X Parish in Mountlake Terrace.*



The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor  
the moon by night. The Lord will keep you  
from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep your going out and  
your coming in from this time forth  
and forevermore.

- Psalm 121:5-8 ESV -

FREEMAGES/Fernando AUDIBERT

by Lucille Hadden

God as my Keeper has been a favorite way of knowing Him for many years now. When I was still a young adult, wrapped up in selfish pursuits, I didn't always realize that God was "keeping" me. Even after making an adult decision to follow Him I was still in need of much conversion. I would rejoice over knowing His great love and as easily find myself in the depths of despair over sin and painful circumstances because I hadn't yet discovered or come to rely upon His grace. I was often in that place of doing things I didn't want to do and not doing what I longed to do. (Romans 7:15-20)

Then, I attended a Catholic Charismatic retreat at Holy Spirit Retreat House in Anchorage and discovered just how God had been my Keeper all those years.

A woman at that retreat, who had suffered greatly when her family was killed during World War II, sat at a dinner table with me and a group of others. She shared her story. As a child, she had escaped to America,

never to see her family again. She was in the middle of inner-healing from this trauma when we met. She had come to the retreat hoping to receive relief. At the end of the meal, still at table, those present began to pray for her. God spoke through me, saying, "I am your Keeper! I have always kept you. Here I am with you today." As I spoke those words into her life, God touched my heart with grace and a deep, knowing joy that He was MY keeper too! In that moment, He wasn't only speaking to her, but to me! In an instant, I came to discover the times God had kept me...kept by His love; kept for a future full of hope; kept in spite of my sins and lacks. I had been loved and graced and kept long before I knew it.

God is my Keeper. O, how I love Him in this! He has shown me through hard times and every trial, and most especially, in those wonderful times of His Presence. In sorrow and in joy, I am His, kept by Him and for Him. ■

*Lucille Hadden is a leader of Anawim Prayer Group, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Kelso, WA.*

## November/December INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

**Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:**

Nov 1	Pope Francis	Dec 1	Pope Francis
Nov 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne	Dec 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne
Nov 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS	Dec 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
Nov 4	Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg	Dec 4	Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Nov 5	Fr. Jim Northrop	Dec 5	Fr. Jim Northrop
Nov 6	Seminarian Michael Barbarossa	Dec 6	Fr. Timothy Clark
Nov 7	Fr. Phillip Bloom	Dec 7	Fr. Patrick Clark
Nov 8	Fr. Jay Bonete	Dec 8	Fr. Raymond Cleaveland
Nov 9	Deacon Derek Bothern	Dec 9	Fr. Marlin Connoles
Nov 10	Fr. Martin Bourke	Dec 10	Fr. Scott Connolly
Nov 11	Fr. John Bowman	Dec 11	Deacon Joseph Connor
Nov 12	Fr. Jordan Bradshaw O.P.	Dec 12	Fr. James Coyne
Nov 13	Fr. David Brant	Dec 13	Deacon Derrel Craig
Nov 14	Fr. Benjamin Bray	Dec 14	Deacon Don Cummins
Nov 15	Fr. Edward Brodsky	Dec 15	Fr. Louis Cunningham
Nov 16	Fr. Paul Brunet	Dec 16	Fr. James Dalton
Nov 17	Fr. Jack Buckalew	Dec 17	Fr. Thanh Dao
Nov 18	Fr. Raymond Bueno	Dec 18	Fr. Arulanandu David
Nov 19	Fr. John Bulger	Dec 19	Fr. Anthony Davis
Nov 20	Fr. Gerald Burns	Dec 20	Deacon Jim Decker
Nov 21	Fr. Glen Butterworth	Dec 21	Fr. Joseph (Jay) DeFolco
Nov 22	Fr. Robert Camuso	Dec 22	Deacon Jose DeLeon
Nov 23	Fr. Francisco Cancino	Dec 23	Seminarian John DePalma
Nov 24	Deacon Adolfo Carbajal	Dec 24	Deacon Marshall Denby
Nov 25	Deacon Antonio Cavazos	Dec 25	Fr. Bryon Dickey
Nov 26	Seminarian Sylvester Chanda	Dec 26	Deacon Frank DiGirolamo
Nov 27	Deacon Carl Chilo	Dec 27	Fr. Michael Dion
Nov 28	Deacon Kwok Chin	Dec 28	Fr. Bryan Dolejsi
Nov 29	Fr. Cal Christiansen	Dec 29	Fr. Gordon Douglas
Nov 30	Deacon Winfred "Buddy" Clapham	Dec 30	Deacon Denny Duffell
		Dec 31	Fr. Oliver Duggan

*Lord, lift up your holy priests; grant them the graces they need to minister 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.*

*continues from page 4*

Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord, and to the mission of WWCCR. And thank you for praying for the fruitfulness of this mission, according to the will of the Father, through the intercession of St. Joseph. God bless you! ■

*Let us pray...*

**O Saint Joseph,**  
assist us by your  
powerful and effective  
intercession, and present  
this intention to your  
Divine foster-son, Jesus  
Christ, our Lord: We  
place the interests and  
needs of WWCCR  
before You, Jesus,  
especially our need for  
wisdom and provision  
for the future disposition  
of the WWCCR office  
building, for any  
re-structuring we need,  
and for the appropriate  
staffing, including our  
search for an Executive  
Director. Amen.

*(Feel free to cut out this prayer and keep it in your bible or prayer book.)*





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**GLEANNINGS**  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020



*A Spring of Water Flowing*  
**in the Parched Land**

**2021 WWCCR Virtual Women's Retreat  
Saturday, February 6, 2021**

**Save the Date for this day-long retreat!**

For more information and registration details, go to [wwccr.org](http://wwccr.org) or call 206-364-2272