

# 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 2021

Volume XLVII Number 5

## A GLORIOUS PLAN & GRACE TO DO IT!

By Fr. Jim Northrop

WWCCR's Vision Statement, "That all Catholics mature in a personal relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father," has motivated the many ways we have served the Archdiocese of Seattle for over forty years through Holy Spirit Seminars, Conferences, Healing Masses, Leadership Training, Retreats, encouragement and communication to all the prayer groups. We are encouraged to see how the WWCCR Vision is so much in line with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan. Fr. Jim has written a great summary of the Pastoral Plan for us to realize how we can be one of the resources to help implement it in the next months.

Shortly after his arrival, Archbishop Etienne prayerfully began a process of Pastoral Planning to ensure that we continue the mission Jesus has entrusted to the Church. New opportunities are opening up all around us to rediscover with great joy the Truth that God wants each one of us to be part of his plan of bringing about the Redemption of our world. Even though the last year and a half have been filled with great challenges, God has not abandoned us and wants us to embrace the calling we received at our Baptism to bring about the Kingdom of God. This is very exciting!

The foundation of our Pastoral Planning is the great commission the Lord gave us at the end of Matthew's Gospel:

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make*

*disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matt 28:19-20)

**This is our mission.** Because of the kindness of God's love, Jesus shares his authority with us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The sending forth of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost empowered the disciples to go forth and fulfill the mission. The Holy Spirit keeps the gift of hope alive in our hearts and helps us to be focused even when we face tremendous challenges. I invite you to pray the Prayer for Pastoral Planning and especially want to highlight the following petition:

*"As members of your Mystical Body, the Church, we come to you seeking the gift and guidance of your Holy Spirit."*

God is not stingy. Jesus reminds us, "How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask" (Luke

*continues to page 3*

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

PAGE 2

AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

PAGE 4

BEARING GOOD FRUIT

PAGE 5

I'M NOT NUTS, I'M A FRUIT

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

## WWCCR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SHARON FOX, *President*  
RUBYSLIPPERDESIGN@YAHOO.COM

ANDREA GARCIA, *Vice-President*

KELLIE SCHMIEDER, *Secretary*

JULIO POCON, *Member*  
JPOCON@COMCAST.NET

BISHOP EUSEBIO ELIZONDO  
*LIAISON TO THE ARCHBISHOP*

FR. JIM NORTROP  
*SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR*

## WWCCR STAFF

INTERIM OFFICE MANAGER  
JEAN BEERS

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS  
CAROLYN MCNERNEY  
THERESA JORDAN

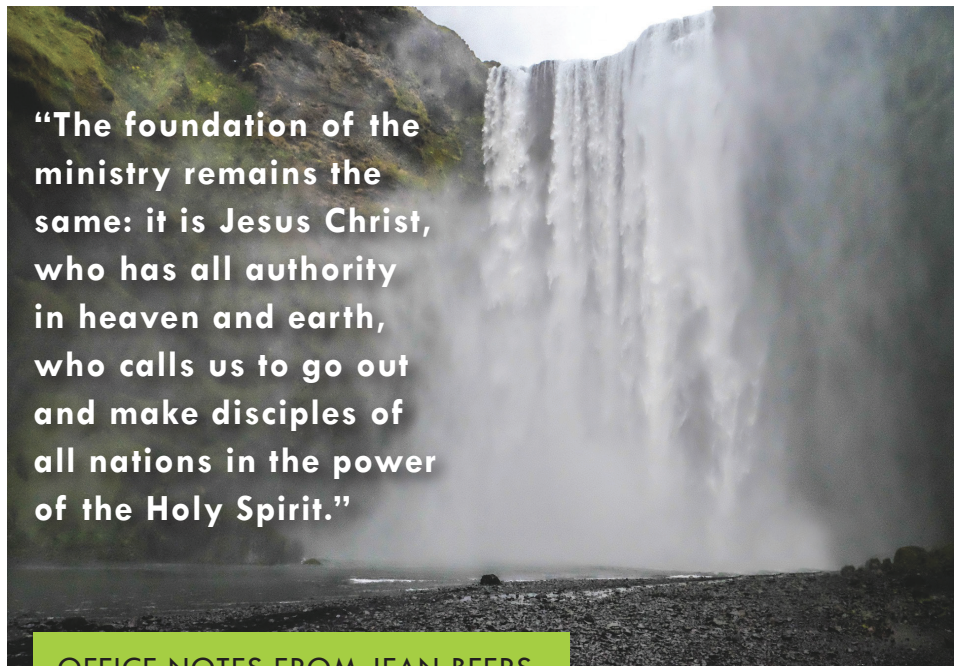
WEBMASTER  
SKYE MCGINN

BOOKKEEPER  
MARY BETH HEROLD

**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.

© 2021 WESTERN WASHINGTON  
CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL  
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION.



**“The foundation of the ministry remains the same: it is Jesus Christ, who has all authority in heaven and earth, who calls us to go out and make disciples of all nations in the power of the Holy Spirit.”**

OFFICE NOTES FROM JEAN BEERS  
Interim Office Manager

When I read about the new Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese, I was delighted to find that Archbishop Paul Etienne is asking us to pray with the Church in our archdiocese for a new commitment to know Jesus, to work together to make him known and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out the mission that Jesus gave to the apostles and to us. This is a prayer I will gladly join!

I encourage you to read Fr. Jim’s article on page 1. Reflect for yourself on how baptism in the Holy Spirit has been instrumental in leading you to do the three things that the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan promotes.

I was led to dive deeply into the key scripture from the Pastoral Plan, Matthew 28:18-22. In studying these verses and reflecting on them, I have come to appreciate even more the authority of Jesus over all things in heaven and on earth. When we know the scriptures, we stand on a solid foundation of faith that gives us certainty in the midst of the pressures of this age.

In these challenging times we have had to re-think how we can carry out the mission. We have learned how to conduct meetings via zoom and have live-streamed retreats and events. WWCCR has had to assess the changing neighborhood of its office building in North Seattle and has listed it for sale. The foundation of the ministry remains the same: it is Jesus Christ, who has all authority in heaven and earth, who calls us to go out and make disciples of all nations in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us join Archbishop Etienne and the Church in Western Washington in the Prayer for Pastoral Planning and the mission of Jesus. ■

11:13). We just need to seek and ask for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit to strengthen, guide, and help us.

The Pastoral Plan basically consists of three fundamental elements.

**Encounter.** A personal encounter with Jesus and God's love revealed in him is the foundation of our discipleship and the mission of the Church. We see how so many people who were broken encountered Jesus and they experienced love, healing, and affirmation of their dignity as a child of God. I will never forget in my own life, during a time of great pain and confusion, how I encountered the Lord. He brought so much joy and hope into my life and showed me the way he wanted me to serve him. Everything changed after that encounter.

Every one of us is invited to experience this life-changing encounter with Jesus. St. John Paul II once said that many Catholics are "sacramentalized but not evangelized." I believe he was telling us how easy it is to be baptized as an infant and taken to church but somehow failing to open the door of our hearts to Jesus to be our Lord and Savior (c.f. Revelation 3:20). Each one of us needs to make a personal decision to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. This commitment is renewed each and every day, but it is something deeply personal and no other person can make this decision for us.

**Accompaniment.** God has called us to be members of the Body of Christ. We don't travel alone but we encounter Jesus in one another. The basic orientation of conversion is love of God and love of neighbor. Scripture clearly says, "we cannot say we love God and hate our brother or sister" (1 John 4:20). We are called to walk together encouraging one another while it is still today (see Hebrews 3:13). The greatest sign that we truly understand the Gospel is the way we treat other people. This is a challenging task because we so often gravitate to people who we feel comfortable around and who think like us. Jesus reached out to everyone, especially the most poor and marginalized, to show them the depths of God's love. We must strive to help people understand that God loves them by taking an interest in their lives and inviting them to experience the truth that God wants everyone to be saved (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4).

We need to ask the Holy Spirit to take us out of our comfort zone so we can show everyone that God loves them and do things that help them to experience God's mercy and love. As we look at the world around us, we see so many walls and divisions. The Holy Spirit will help us break these barriers down, but this process begins with each one of us examining our own prejudices and uncharitable attitudes towards those who don't agree with us. St. Jerome has a beau-

tiful quote about how the Lord broke down walls of hatred and division and helped them accompany one another:

*"We used to hate and destroy one another and refused to associate with people of another race or country. Now, because of Christ, we live together with such people and pray for our enemies."*

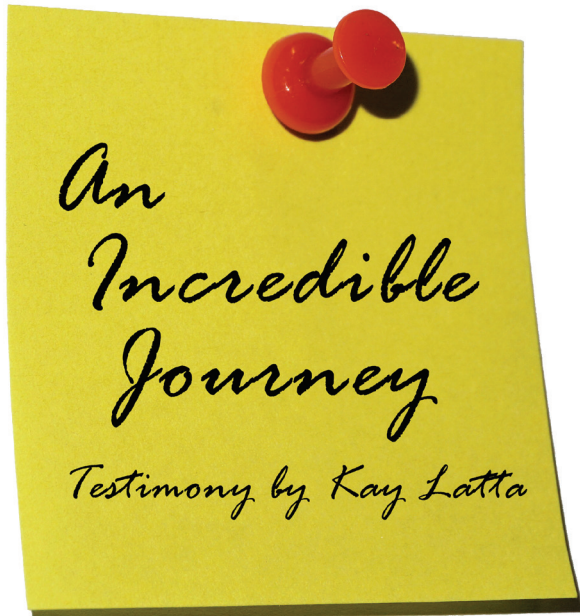
Only Jesus can help us do this.

**Live the Unconditional Love and Joy of the Gospel.** Someone once told me, "Joy is a sure sign of the presence of God." The way we live our lives reflects what we believe. When people see us focused on the things that really matter (cf. Philippians 1:10) then they will see what discipleship is all about.

We ask for the Lord's most abundant blessings as we move forward with our Pastoral Planning. God is faithful and will help us. We are a people of Hope and of Resurrection. May we always strive to proclaim the "greatness of the Lord" as our Blessed Mother did (see Luke 1:46). ■

*Fr. Jim Northrop is Spiritual Director for WWCCR, pastor of St. Thomas Parish, Tukwila and Chaplain for Kennedy High School.*

*Read more about Pastoral Planning on the Archdiocese of Seattle website: <https://archseattle.org/about-the-archdiocese-of-seattle/archbishop-etienne/pastoral-planning/>*



A friend of my parents, who lived across the street from them, had zero religious teaching of any kind in her life, and somehow ended up attending serious Christian classes called Bible Study Fellowship. This was non-denominational teaching and the Socratic method was used. This friend one day invited me to try out the classes and I noted she seemed to be filled with light. I had been taught as a child not to attend any Christian denomination that was not Catholic, however, something drew me. Perhaps it was the light I could see in her countenance.

After two years of attendance in the four-year program, I was frustrated since God seemed to not answer my prayers and so many others in class spoke of healings. Bible Study Fellowship had an answer for me, a yellow piece of paper called a Letter of Assurance. It contained several prayers and many scriptures, and a prayer of petition asking God for enlightenment.

The yellow piece of paper changed my life forever. As I read through it and said every prayer and read every scripture, God showed me a sin area and took it away from me, just lifted it off. Then I was led by the Lord to attend Mass and several retreats. The Eucharist came alive for me as did all of the Catholic Church's truths, especially confession and the Holy Eucharist.

Then came the surprise. The evening of the day I received the Letter of Assurance I had a dream. I dreamed I was standing in the entryway to our home and the doorbell rang. As I opened the door, there on my porch was an enormous white basket filled with pure white flowers so beautiful they defy description and Jesus was standing around the northeast corner of our home to see if I received the flowers.

Out of this incredible experience of God's mercy and abundant love came my attendance at The London Floral School in Bellevue, my business license and the opening of my floral design business that I operated from my home, doing flowers for events too numerous to count. Also, the Lord gave me a dear friend/employee who worked many times with me till 2 or 3 am. We did weddings, funerals, and wonderful special occasions. My friend was/is an incredible artist, a "born again" Christian. We had hard work, fun, beauty and unspeakable joy.

The yellow piece of paper brought me into the charismatic renewal. It is my personal treasure that brought me to Christ and also into the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When you look for Christ, he finds you! ■

*Kay and Dave Latta are parishioners at St. Mark's Church, Shoreline, Washington.*

# BEARING GOOD FRUIT

by Bill Odell

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control...” (Gal 5:22)**

What? These virtues are a work of the Spirit? Not my will-power or determination alone? Not my social circumstances, my education, nor even my upbringing? You’re promising me, God, that even those virtues I don’t yet display will be brought forth by your Spirit? Yes, I believe you are promising me exactly that.

I recently discovered an excellent internet-based television series entitled “The Chosen” (Google that title and it will bring you to the free series. I highly recommend it). This series follows Jesus, his character, mission, and miracles through the eyes and lives of his first followers. It is extremely well done and powerful. I found the back-stories on the main characters fascinating. Although the back-stories are speculation by the writers of the series, they certainly mesh with what we do know from scripture and tradition. First, these early followers were all young. Jesus himself was only 30 when he began his ministry. Peter, Andrew, and the other apostles were portrayed as young men in their 20’s, with all the restless energy, lack of experience, limited vision, and occasionally poor decision-making we see in young men everywhere. Most were poor, barely scraping by. They weren’t educated. They were considered peasant rabble by the authorities. In fact, Matthew was despised in his community, a tax collector for the hated and oppressive Romans, and shunned even by his own people. Yet, Jesus saw something in each of them and so he called each to follow him.

What could Jesus have seen in each of these young men? On the surface it would appear that the one thing they had in common was a complete lack of ability for the task he had in mind for them.

Yet, Jesus saw something else in them. I believe that what he saw in them was the capacity to say “yes,” to surrender themselves fully to his sovereignty and to his will in their lives. He saw what his Spirit could accomplish through a “yes” from these otherwise completely unqualified men. And, of course, he was right. Look at what these common men became and accomplished in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**“It is through the sanctifying work of the Spirit that we experience spiritual growth.”**

It is through the sanctifying work of the Spirit that we experience spiritual growth. And it is only through our own spiritual growth and maturity that the Spirit is able to reach others through the charisms he desires to manifest in us.

Have you noticed that fruit and charisms go hand in hand? That she who has the charism of speaking faith into the hearts of others, has herself the fruit of faith. That he who has the charism of revealing God’s love to the hearts of others, has himself the fruit of love. We need the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, not only for our own sanctification, but that we, though cracked vessels, be empowered to build God’s kingdom in the hearts of others. Through you and me, God can do anything if we just say “yes”.

So, we echo Mary’s yes. “Come Lord Jesus. May it be done according to your Word. Your will, not mine, be done.” ■

*Bill Odell served as a board member and volunteer on many committees for WWCCR. Author of “A Witness to Christ: The Testimony of a Born-Again Catholic.” He is active in men’s ministry and evangelization with St. Andrew’s parish in Ellensburg, WA.*



by Sharon Fox

I was meeting with some friends on Zoom the other day and the phrase, “I’m not a nut, I’m a fruit” came up. It made us laugh and then we got quiet, as a deeper message in this phrase came to light. So here are a few points to ponder.

### **I’m a fruit...**

Jesus said that he is the vine and we are the branches. If we remain in him, we will bear much fruit. (See Jn 15:5) What fruit is the Holy Spirit bearing in your life today? Whether you have a window box herb garden or neatly plowed rows of veggies in the backyard, you have seen what happens to seeds as they mature: there’s a sprout, then a stalk, then a flower, and then the fruit starts to take shape. Like that plant, we are all a work in progress and we all go through seasons of growth throughout our lives. It’s good to reflect on this and ask the Lord: what season do you have me in now? Another way to reflect to this is: Are you stuck at some point in this cycle? Do you feel like unplowed soil with a dry prayer time? Have you been feeling the joy of new growth, new life, new hope? Do you see that your efforts are producing fruit in yourself—like mastering past temptations, growing in the desire for more of Jesus or a new appreciation for forgiveness and desiring to extend that forgiveness with others? Even feeling like the season of productivity is over and things are slowing down is part of the process. Where are you in the fruit bearing cycle right now?

### **I’m not a nut...**

The life of a charismatic looks very strange to the rest of the world, sometimes we have even been called “charismaniacs! Once you experience the power of the Holy Spirit, you can’t help but desire

the things of God instead of worldly things and this will make you seem weird to those around you. Some may think your conversion makes you “holier than thou.”

New experiences and growth in the Holy Spirit can also lead to adopting new words when talking about conversion and this can alienate others. We all want to rejoice and share our newly found life in the Spirit, but it is a great responsibility to do this with prudence. Our new over-the-top joy might actually be the thing that turns others off! Great care and discernment are needed to balance our joy with our effectiveness to bring others into the new life that Jesus has given us. Evidence of true conversion comes from within and should start to show up in our life. It doesn’t come immediately, as we can all attest, but every day, as we seek to follow Jesus, seeking to turn from sin and do his will, we can begin to become like him. When we do share our joy with others, they will see it in our love, our forgiveness and compassion as well as in our words. Then people will want what we have and be more open to know and love Jesus too.

### **One last thought about fruit**

What happens to fruit once it has sprouted and matured on the vine? If it stays there on the vine, it will wither and rot and not be useful to anyone. However, if that fruit is plucked from their branch and vine, it becomes food of others. Frequently, fruit is also crushed, peeled or baked because only these actions make their best flavor come out. The fruit we bear is not intended just for us. We are meant to bear fruit so that we can bring Jesus Christ to the world wherever we live. ■

*Sharon Fox is the WWCCR Board president and a parishioner at St. Anthony parish in Renton.*

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

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

Sept 1	Pope Francis	Oct 1	Pope Francis
Sept 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne	Oct 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne
Sept 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSPS	Oct 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSPS
Sept 4	Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg	Oct 4	Fr. Jim Northrop
Sept 5	Fr. Jim Northrop	Oct 5	Seminarian Simon Stehr
Sept 6	Seminarian Sylvester Rozario	Oct 6	Fr. Todd Strange
Sept 7	Fr. Justin Ryan	Oct 7	Fr. Mel Strazicich
Sept 8	Fr. Michael Ryan	Oct 8	Fr. Thomas Suss
Sept 9	Deacon Jerry Sadler	Oct 9	Fr. Stephen Szeman
Sept 10	Fr. Jose de Jesus Sanchez	Oct 10	Deacon Mirek Sztajno
Sept 11	Deacon Ron San Nicolas	Oct 11	Fr. Marcin Szymanski
Sept 12	Fr. Ramon Santa Cruz	Oct 12	Seminarian Joseph Tapia-Beeman
Sept 13	Fr. Timothy Sauer	Oct 13	Deacon Ike Tarabi
Sept 14	Fr. Milhton Scarpetta	Oct 14	Deacon Mike Teskey
Sept 15	Deacon Duane Schireman	Oct 15	Fr. Brian Thompson
Sept 16	Fr. Frank Schuster	Oct 16	Fr. Francis Thumbi
Sept 17	Fr. Sebastin Santhosh Sebastian	Oct 17	Deacon Donald Tillitson
Sept 18	Fr. Dennis Sevilla	Oct 18	Seminarian John Paul Tomassi
Sept 19	Deacon Tim Shamrell	Oct 19	Deacon Bill Townsend
Sept 20	Fr. Patrick Sherrard	Oct 20	Fr. Anh Tran
Sept 21	Deacon Mark Shine	Oct 21	Fr. Anthony Lan Tran
Sept 22	Deacon Joe Shriver	Oct 22	Fr. Thomas Tran
Sept 23	Deacon Joseph Sifferman	Oct 23	Fr. Vu Tran
Sept 24	Fr. Vinner Raj Simeon Raj	Oct 24	Fr. William Treacy
Sept 25	Fr. Showreelu Simham	Oct 25	Seminarian Fred Tucker
Sept 26	Fr. Roger Smith	Oct 26	Deacon Asipeli Tuifua
Sept 27	Deacon Lloyd Snider	Oct 27	Fr. Patrick Twohy
Sept 28	Fr. Richard Spicer	Oct 28	Fr. Jose Ugalde
Sept 29	Fr. Aloysius Ssensamba	Oct 29	Deacon Sonny Ungco
Sept 30	Deacon Daniel Stamper	Oct 30	Fr. Thomas Vandenberg
		Oct 31	Deacon Gene Vanderzanden

*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.*

*Let us pray...*

○ **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.)*



**WESTERN WASHINGTON  
CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL**  
P.O. BOX 33609  
SEATTLE, WA 98133-0609

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 4246

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**WESTERN WASHINGTON  
CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC  
RENEWAL (WWCCR)**

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
P.O. BOX 33609  
SEATTLE, WA 98133

**OFFICE (206) 364-2272  
INFO@WWCCR.ORG  
WWW.WWCCR.ORG**



**GLEANNINGS**  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

*A Glorious  
Plan and  
Grace To  
Do It!*



Fr. Jim Northrop encourages us to pray the Prayer for Pastoral Planning, to study the scriptures and know Jesus better, and be empowered for the mission.

Read his article on page 1.



**- SAVE THE DATE -**

**February 18-20, 2022**

*Called  
to Hope*

**WWCCR Women's  
Retreat**

Watch for more information to come