

LIFE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT RETREATS

By Ron McNerney

In Ecclesiastes 3, we are told that *"There is an appointed time for everything... a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant..."* Our fields have laid fallow for a time. Now, again, it is the time to plant. And the *"...master of the harvest..."* is sending out laborers for his harvest.

The illness caused by the pandemic, the sheltering-in-place orders, and the quarantine requirements all have had their effect not only on the outreach of WWCCR, but all ministries. However, things are changing, we are past the *"...time to be silent..."* and entering into *"...a time to speak..."*

I want to share with you about one way in which we will once again plant and speak—**Life with the Holy Spirit Retreats!**

We have formed a Steering Committee to help with discernment and advising for the Retreats which includes Ana and Ruben Pereyra; Jim and Jodie Hardesty; and Carolyn McNerney and is facilitated by Ron McNerney.

A team of people who will be active in presenting the Life with the Holy Spirit Retreats has been formed, and we are moving ahead with preparations. The

team has already met twice via Zoom and will continue to meet regularly on the first Sunday of

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How can I share baptism in the Spirit with others?

Many of us have shared with others the good news of God's love and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. We have invited them to Life in the Spirit Seminars and have encouraged them to mature in their relationship with Jesus both personally and in prayer groups. But today, how can we share baptism in the Spirit?

First of all, **we pray**: for individuals in our circle of influence and whoever else the Lord brings to mind. Next, we look for opportunities to pray with people and share the love of Jesus with them. We can encourage them to ask for the outpouring of the

Spirit with his gifts, so that they can be empowered to minister to others.

One way to do this is to invite people into our home for hospitality and to share our faith. For example, we could ask them to join us in watching a video about baptism in the Spirit, such as the Wild Goose series. It is described in an article on page 4 of this issue. This series is also good for prayer groups or other parish ministries.

Another way will be through the Life with the Holy Spirit Retreats that are described in the article above by Ron McNerney. We have done it before, let's again use all the resources we have to share baptism in the Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit! ♦

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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 Interim Office Manager

GOD HAS BEEN AT WORK ALL ALONG

The sun breaking through after days, weeks, of gloomy overcast weather brings joy and renews hope for more bright and sunny days. It is like a phone call asking for prayer from a family member that you've been praying for after weeks, years, of intercession. That breakthrough moment brings such joy and hope. It confirms the belief that God has been at work all along, that our intercession really does matter. Andrea Garcia shares a beautiful example of this on page 6 of this issue.

The past two years of COVID with gloomy days of masking, of quarantines, and isolation have tested us all as we seek new ways to interact with each other. We continue to pray, to intercede for breakthroughs in faith among our family members and all those that the Lord brings into our lives.

I received a phone call from a man in California asking for prayers for his mother. He had searched the internet for Catholic Charismatic Renewal, looking for a prayer group and one of the first to appear in the search was WWCCR. He found the Living Light Prayer Group in Langley on our website. I am listed as the contact for that group, so he called me. The prayer group is praying for him and his mother. I also told him about The Wild Goose series that we review on p. 4 of this issue, because he was interested in a Holy Spirit seminar but couldn't find one near his area.

WWCCR board, staff and supporters have been steadily praying, interceding for breakthroughs as we seek to bring the joy and hope of baptism in the Spirit to many more people. God is at work all along the way and our intercession really does matter. ♦

Photo: PIXABAY.com

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each month for the purpose of building community, fellowship, training, and prayer.

We have a three-pronged approach to making the retreats as accessible to everyone as possible. Each style of retreat is presented just a little bit differently but will cover the same material in six sessions. We will be offering the retreat in a Zoom format [over six weeks]; [a one day] in-person retreat; and a video version that will be available on the WWCCR website. It is our goal to begin presenting retreats in the immediate future. We are in the process of scheduling two in-person retreats although we are not quite ready to announce the locations and dates. Those details are still being worked out. The work on the video version of the retreat has also begun.

If you have attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar at some time, you will recognize what those who attend our Retreats will experience.

We begin by speaking of **“God’s Love.”** This helps to set the climate for the entire retreat. God is love and everyone is loveable and loved by God.

Next, **“Salvation”** focuses on the importance of Christ and the gift of salvation. The basic Gospel message and the daily choice between good and evil are discussed.

“New Life” is the topic of the third session and deals with the promise of new life with and



Life With the Holy Spirit Retreat, January 2020

If you are active in a parish or prayer group and would like to consider hosting a **Life with the Holy Spirit Retreat**, call the WWCCR office to get information on your “next steps” to begin the process of getting on the schedule at (206) 364-2272.

through Christ. The Baptism of Jesus is our example.

“Receiving God’s Gift” is all about the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit. References to Ephesians, Acts, Romans, Galatians, and Corinthians fill this session.

The high point of the retreat is the fifth session, **“Praying for baptism in the Holy Spirit.”** Retreatants will have the opportunity to receive individual prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit and an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The retreat ends with a session on **“Growth.”** Tools are presented to help the retreatant continue with their personal walk with Jesus guided by the Holy Spirit.

At different points in the retreat, personal testimonies are shared by team members. This helps to build the bond among all those attending by realizing that their experiences have a common ground with others.

Approximately four weeks after the retreat, there is a three-hour follow-up meeting. At this meeting, the retreatants will have the opportunity to share what they have experienced in the post-retreat time. This follow-up meeting was very well received by those who attended the retreat in January 2020.

This is all very exciting news that I am able to share with you today. All of us on the team are looking forward to being active in the Life with the Holy Spirit Retreat. I realize that not everyone is able to be part of the presenting team. However, I would ask each and every one of you to lift up in prayerful support the team and all those who will be attending any form of the Life with the Holy Spirit Retreats. ♦

THE WILD GOOSE IS LOOSE!

By Ron McNerney

Several years ago, someone—prob'ly my wife Carolyn—suggested that I should watch the “Wild Goose” series on the Holy Spirit. This was when I was heavily involved with WWCCR’s School of Healing Ministry and I was very open to seeking new ideas about the Holy Spirit.

I will admit that at the time I thought Wild Goose was a rather strange name for a series of religious talks, especially about Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Now, I am somewhat embarrassed to also admit it was just today that I learned the true meaning behind the term Wild Goose. Philip Kosloski explained it this way; “...the ancient Celtic people saw the Holy Spirit not as a hovering white dove but as a “wild goose.” The meaning behind this peculiar choice is because they saw how the Holy Spirit has a tendency to disrupt and surprise. The Holy Spirit moves in our lives in an unexpected fashion, similar to the actions of a wild goose.”

The 14-part series is hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR. Each session is approximately 30-minutes in length and builds upon each other. Fr. Dave is a dynamic speaker, with the ability to both challenge and reassure the viewer. The love of God through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is stressed throughout the teachings. This is a great resource for an individual, group of friends, or a parish-based study group.

On a personal note, I have viewed this series several times and found each time to be worthwhile and inspirational. Not only did I find the sessions valuable in my personal relationship with the Holy Spirit...but I felt as though I had partaken of a little mini-retreat in my very own livingroom! ♦

Resources for Wild Goose are available on:

<https://thewildgooseisloose.com/wild-goose-main-page>
Also Facebook and YouTube.

Ron McNerney is the Coordinator of the Life with the Holy Spirit Team and a parishioner at St. Teresa Parish in Federeal Way.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...

Jesus used parables and analogies to describe what the Kingdom of God is really like. So consider this:



Our spiritual life is like bi-focals, and to grow spiritually, we need to have two kinds of vision. The first is a daily, focused attention to our relationship with Jesus. We have many tools to be attentive to this important relationship—daily prayer and praying in tongues, a daily examination of conscience, receiving the Holy Eucharist as often as possible, finding time for praise and worship, daily scripture reading, spiritual direction and more—that help us grow a stronger relationship with the Lord. As we strive for humility, holiness, and growth as a

Christian, we need to be intentional about this essential relationship. Without

“He wants to meet the needs of others and proclaim the Gospel... through you.”

this, everything else in life is affected. Nothing else matters more than this intimate relationship with Jesus.

The second is our distance vision—the vision to see where the Lord is calling us. No matter what state of life you are in, whether

you are out working in the world, at home busy with family care or even in a time of sickness, the Lord has a mission for you. The Holy Spirit wants to lead others closer to Jesus... through you. He wants to meet the needs of others and proclaim the Gospel... through you. This call to mission comes from your daily prayer life. When you surrender your life to Jesus each day, the Holy Spirit will use both kinds of vision, focused and distance, to fulfill the mission that the Lord has for you. ♦

Sharon Fox is the WWCCR Board President and attends St. Anthony parish in Renton,



DON'T GIVE UP PRAYING FOR YOUR FAMILY

by Andrea Garcia

***"But as for you, be strong
and do not give up, for
your work will be rewarded."***

- 2 Chronicles 15:7

On my pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 2019, we visited the Western Wall in the old city where people bring their prayer intentions to one of the holiest places on earth, the Wailing Wall. And as promised, I placed my sister's as well as my own petitions for my family's health and spiritual well-being in between the cracks of the wall. You probably recognize that prayer petition yourself. "Reconciliation between parents, children, siblings fallen away from God and the church etc." Well, here I was tucking into the Wall those intentions that are closest to my heart. "Do not lose heart, Drea," I heard the Lord saying, "See, I am doing something new!" Little did I know the result of those prayers.

God hears the cry of your heart for your family. Let me share two reasons why it is so important to keep praying for your family.

Reason #1 Prayer bears fruit! Never cease in doing it. It may seem like nothing will ever change

or it's been years and nothing has happened. Ignore that thought!

Reason #2 Prayer changes everything. If we are faithful, God will answer.

Case in point. My niece Melissa and her son Nate. A year after going on pilgrimage, at my mother's memorial service, my 23 yr. old nephew, Nate, told me that he wasn't happy where he was in life and was seriously thinking about looking into the Catholic faith and wanted to check out a church in our hometown. I asked him if he wanted some company and so the very next day we walked into Our Lady Star of the Sea church in Bremerton, the very church my family attended when I was young, and where my siblings and I went to Catholic school.

Stepping into the church he said he felt great peace and at the same time felt truly unworthy to be in there. I told him, "If being worthy was necessary, then none of us would be here. God makes us worthy and desires us to be with him." Tears followed and it was the beginning of a journey that led him into the Catholic church on Palm Sunday 2021. It had such

an effect on him that his mother, Melissa, at 45, began a journey of her own.

During Nate's time attending RCIA class, he would come home and tell Melissa all that he learned and she could see that there was something different about Nate. He was happy, something she hadn't seen in a long time and after entering the church he would come home from Mass with such peace and joy that it made Melissa take notice.

I talked to Melissa on the phone the other day and as she shared her testimony with me, she said she never felt religious growing up. She was semi-active in her church but as an adult stepped away. Nate's transformation piqued her interest and with an invitation from Nate, (*wink wink*,) Melissa started her journey. Where the Lord leads her is up to him. All I need to do is be persistent in prayer and wait for God to do his thing!

More answered prayers coming.

● Is there a family member the Lord is calling you to pray for today?

● Don't give up praying. He's working on it. ♦

Andrea Garcia is the WWCCR Board Vice President and a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament parish in Seattle.

MARCH/APRIL INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:

Mar 1	Pope Francis	Apr 1	Pope Francis
Mar 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne	Apr 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne
Mar 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS	Apr 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
Mar 4	Fr. Jim Northrop	Apr 4	Fr. Jim Northrop
Mar 5	Deacon John Elshaw	Apr 5	Deacon Bill Hamlin
Mar 6	Fr. Jaya Kumar Embeti	Apr 6	Fr. W.R. Harris
Mar 7	Fr. Robert Evenson	Apr 7	Seminarian Nathan Hatch
Mar 8	Deacon David Field	Apr 8	Fr. Richard Hayatsu
Mar 9	Deacon Jim Fish	Apr 9	Fr. Anthony Haycock
Mar 10	Deacon Brian Freese	Apr 10	Fr. Kenneth Haydock
Mar 11	Fr. Patrick Freitag	Apr 11	Deacon Thomas Hayward
Mar 12	Fr. Andrzej Galant	Apr 12	Fr. Jarlath Heneghan
Mar 13	Deacon Cesar Galindo-Legaria	Apr 13	Fr. William Heric
Mar 14	Fr. Richard Gallagher	Apr 14	Fr. Bryan Hersey
Mar 15	Deacon Felix Garcia	Apr 15	Deacon Chad Hill
Mar 16	Deacon Leon García-Martínez	Apr 16	Fr. Phuong Hoang
Mar 17	Fr. David Gese	Apr 17	Fr. Christopher Holland
Mar 18	Fr. Vincent Gilmore	Apr 18	Deacon Del Hoover
Mar 19	Seminarian Gitau Mbuiyu	Apr 19	Fr. Timothy Ilgen
Mar 20	Fr. Patrick Godley	Apr 20	Fr. Caleb Insco
Mar 21	Fr. Emilio Gonzalez	Apr 21	Fr. Yongguk Jeon
Mar 22	Deacon Jose Gonzalez	Apr 22	Seminarian Erick Johns
Mar 23	Deacon Lawrence Gorman	Apr 23	Deacon Fred Johnson
Mar 24	Deacon Gerald Graddon	Apr 24	Deacon James Johnson
Mar 25	Fr. Chad Green	Apr 25	Fr. James Johnson
Mar 26	Deacon Jeffrey Greer	Apr 26	Fr. Tyler Johnson
Mar 27	Fr. Randy Guarino	Apr 27	Fr. Clarence Jones
Mar 28	Fr. Armando Guzman	Apr 28	Deacon Dave Jones
Mar 29	Fr. Mark Guzman	Apr 29	Fr. Bernard Jonientz
Mar 30	Seminarian Grant Habersetzer	Apr 30	Fr. P.A. Kaech
Mar 31	Fr. Bradley Hagelin		

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.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray...

In thanksgiving for the power of the Holy Spirit being alive and active in our lives and in the many ministries and prayer groups in Western Washington.

For the fruitfulness of the Life with the Holy Spirit team as they prepare to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to individuals and communities. May the Lord bless their efforts and direct their plans.

In thanksgiving for the ministry of the Women's Retreat and for the ongoing graces that were experienced by the women who attended this year, online and in person.

For all young people who are searching for truth, that the Holy Spirit will awaken them to his presence and use WWCCR, and many others, to minister to them.

In thanksgiving for the staff and volunteers who carry the responsibility of supporting the work of WWCCR, that through their hands and hearts the message of the Gospel will be heard.

In thanksgiving for our spiritual director, Fr. Jim Northrop, that he will continue to grow in wisdom and knowledge. May his words be anointed, and his ministry be a blessing everywhere he goes.

Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.



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GLEANNINGS
MARCH / APRIL 2022

SAVE THE DATE!
PENTECOST - JUNE 5, 2022

**WAIT FOR THE PROMISE
OF THE FATHER**
ACTS 1:4

2-4 PM
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