

## The Infinite Generosity of God

by Angela R. Fernandes

Many of us don't easily believe in miracles. I am one of those people. At least I used to be.

I have been a Catholic my entire life, but also a skeptic and a grouch, chewn up by many of life's painful circumstances. For much of my life, God seemed very far away. And the Holy Spirit? Who is that?

I was one of those teenagers at age 15 who felt nothing when I received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Here comes the Holy Spirit! The bishop is here! And here comes nothing much, I thought. At least we're going out to eat after this.

So miracles, to me, were things that happened long ago to people in the Bible who followed Jesus around and touched his cloak and had friends lower them through holes in the roof. But Jesus left and who's doing the miracles now?

I have been asked to tell you my story. As my old mentor used to say, "Miracles are just God's will super-sized!"

Since the beginning of this year I have been suffering from serious complications after having my

wisdom teeth extracted. What is usually considered a routine surgery resulted in a serious infection in my lower jawbone that had begun eating away at the bone on both sides of my face. Both jawbones were fractured, and the nerves on either side were damaged.

I was referred to the oral and facial surgery unit at Harborview Medical Center. My surgeon told me I needed to have surgery as soon as possible to repair the damage and clean out the infection. I would need metal plates and screws installed to repair the fractures, as well as bone grafting from cadaver tissue and 12 weeks of antibiotics. Surgery was expected to last five hours.

I was terrified to tell my family there was a risk the bone infection could spread to my brain and possibly kill me. So I didn't tell them. Fear shot my blood pressure up to 230/124, landing me in the ER.

Despite the severity of my condition, the surgery was canceled three times. Surgery can't happen if your blood pressure skyrockets to stroke levels or your surgeon comes down with Covid.

For months I couldn't feel my chin. For months I was capable of slurping nothing but milkshakes, yogurt, applesauce, and pudding. I called it the children's diet from hell. At Easter, my church friends offered to put their Sunday ham in the blender alongside the scalloped potatoes. "Now tell me to offer it up," I'd snarl. I became tired of praying. I didn't want to ask God for anything anymore. I didn't even ask God to heal me because I didn't think it was possible. I was burnt out and exhausted. But my

**Generosity continues to page 3**

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE  
PAGE 2

LIFE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT  
REPORT  
PAGE 4 - 5

REFLECTION  
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

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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 KATHY MOORE WWCCR Office Manager



## PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE HIM THANKS!

Wow! We often do not hear of miracles such as this, but you have to read Angela Fernandes' testimony of her healing at the Pentecost Celebration and through the prayers of many around her. Her story begins on page 1 of this issue of **GLEANINGS**. Praise the Lord and give him thanks!

On July 23, WWCCR offered a Holy Spirit Retreat. Carolyn McNerney's reflection, "Because it's worth it!," relates that some-

times doing God's will needs a lot of God's help for we just do not feel adequate to do it. Look for her article on page 4. The last talk at the retreat wasn't covered because time ran out; it included what to expect after the retreat. My article on page 4 mentions just a few Gifts of the Holy Spirit that one may experience after the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Sharon Fox's article on page 5, "A Long Time Coming with a Great Future Ahead," is an excellent summary of the past, present and the future plans to have this event in the future. We need lots of help with this and Sharon details where it is needed.

On page 6 you will find a reflection on the Faithfulness of the Lord given by Andrea Garcia.

Keep our priests of the Seattle Archdiocese in your daily prayers. Unite with us in prayer for those listed for September/October located on page 7. ♦

Photo: PIXABAY/Barbara Jackson

We have not inserted the familiar yellow envelope in this issue of **GLEANINGS**. We still ask for your support by donating on our website; by your bank's automatic withdrawals; by calling the WWCCR office; by requesting yellow envelopes that we will send to you.



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Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry!

**Generosity** continued from page 1

family and friends kept praying for me. People who love you will do that for you.

As Catholics we like to tell people we are praying for them. We light our candles and say our rosaries. I am not disparaging any of that. That's been my whole life. Our devotions are meaningful.

But here's what I want to ask: Don't give up your devotions. Consider adding one more thing to your spiritual life that will change everything.

We must grow comfortable in praying with each other. In person. Touching. And dare I say, in tongues if the Spirit moves you. Praying from the heart, which many of us were never taught to do.

I can say for sure that it has made all the difference in my life.

On July 12th, three days before my scheduled operation, my surgeon called me in to take a look at my latest scans.

She sat down on her stool and looked me in the eye. "I don't know what to tell you, Angela," she said. "You're healed."

Now we all know that doctors don't talk like this. I thought my heart would explode.

The infection had disappeared. Both fractures had also gone missing and all the bone that was eaten up had filled in nicely. A new jawline appeared on both sides of my face. I could feel my chin again.

"Do you know I have an army of people praying for me?" I asked.

"I bet you do," she answered. "I've never seen bone regenerate so quickly."



On the door, staring me in the face: "Here is my heart and flowers, just for you."

I thought of Mark and Janet Shea, who had welcomed me to their home and prayed with me one evening on their sofa as I sat between the two of them, my hands sandwiched between theirs.

Of Robert and Lori Fontana, who

patiently nursed me back to health in their home after my bloody wisdom tooth removal. They never stopped praying.

Of Fr. Dominic David and Fr. Francis, who anointed my hands and head with sacred oil in the Anointing of the Sick.

My beautiful friend Aleah, who had lovingly agreed to take me to the hospital and bring me home.

I thought of the Pentecost Celebration at St. Thomas Church in Tukwila, which I almost didn't attend. Traffic was terrible that day and I was tempted to go home and take a nap. I went to the celebration instead, in a mood. As Fr. Jim Northrop processed by with the Eucharist, the word healing appeared in my heart, but I dismissed it. I thought I had made it up.

And even after Drea Garcia and Ron McNerney prayed with me

after the Pentecost celebration, placing their hands on my broken little face, I was still unmoved.

My surgeon showed me a 3D scan of my entire skull. That skull will be all that is left of me after I'm gone. And you know what? It was beautiful.

I got up and hugged her and all the residents too.

I ate at Fonda La Catrina after I left Harborview and sat at the table my friend Aleah and I had dined at a few weeks earlier. And this is what I saw that I didn't notice before.

Right there, staring me in the face. "Here is my heart and flowers, just for you."

And I cried and ordered mole enchiladas. They were so delicious.

I don't know why I went to eat there. I just drove straight there after leaving the hospital and laughed at their

restaurant sign out on the sidewalk.

It's me with my beautiful skeleton inside and it's time to enjoy lunch! I thought. And there I was again at our table, looking at the Sacred Heart and the roses emblazoned on the door.

And I laughed and laughed. Because God remembered that I love to eat.

And it mattered to him. ♦

*Angela Fernandes is a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament parish, Seattle.*

FONDA  
LA CATRINA



My beautiful skull!





Welcome/Registration Table



## REPORT



MC, Jim Silk

## BECAUSE IT'S WORTH IT!

by Carolyn McNerney

It has been said that evangelization is simply one beggar showing another beggar where the bread is. To me, this is what we do at a Holy Spirit retreat. As part of the presenting team, we offer the Lord our willingness (some days, even our reluctance), our various gifts, and our response to his call because he is worth it and the people he loves (which is everyone) are worth it. That morning, reflecting on the Ascension mystery, I was thinking how the apostles must have felt pretty small and not equipped to do what Jesus called them to do—and he LEFT! But the rest of the story is that they received the Holy Spirit. And we have received the Holy Spirit. And we want others to receive, or revive, life in the Holy Spirit! So, we pray,

prepare, pray more, and we show up and serve with Jesus' love. Whatever was done well, and whatever could be improved upon, it appeared to me at the retreat on July 23 (while my prayer partner and I went from person to person praying for baptism in the Holy Spirit) that people were touched and blessed by the prayer and by the day—from teens to seniors." We know that the Holy Spirit comes when we invite him. I very much look forward to the August 20 follow-up day when we find out from the retreatants what has happened in their lives since they invited the Holy Spirit to come. ♦

*Carolyn McNerney is a member of the Holy Spirit retreat team and a parishioner at St. Theresa parish, Federal Way.*

## NEW LIFE WITH THE SPIRIT

by Kathy Moore

If you have attended a Holy Spirit Retreat you may wonder, "Was I baptized in the Holy Spirit? How will baptism in the Holy Spirit change me?" It may take a while to realize how you have changed, and the way and manner is unique to each person. What changes have you experienced in your relationship with God since being prayed with for baptism in the Holy Spirit? Here is what happened to me.

When I was first baptized in the Holy Spirit, the knowledge that "God Is Love" went from my head

to my heart, into the very marrow of my bones, and I realized, not only does God love me, but I am head over heels in love with God! And it is all that I want to think about, talk about, read about.

The bible became relevant. Salvation became important, and I absolutely want to spend eternity with God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, of fear of the Lord and of piety, say to me, "Here we are, we are at work in you, giving you a holy desire to never sin again, to make prayer

(talking to God) a priority in your life, to seek heaven." The homilies of my pastor became the greatest talks I have ever heard, and church became my second home. I ask daily, "How can I serve you, Lord", and I became interested in joining the many ministries offered by my church.

Think about how your life is being transformed by the Holy Spirit, in big ways and in small ways. Give thanks to the Lord! ♦

*Kathy Moore is the new WWCCR Office Manager and a parishioner at St. Mary parish, Anacortes.*

Photos: Andrea Garcia, Ana Pereyra, Sharon Fox



Mary Grace Crissey  
gives a teaching



Ana Pereyra shares  
her testimony

## A LONG TIME COMING WITH A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD

by Sharon Fox

When Pope Francis met with an international group of charismatic leaders in 2014, he shared his heart with the world-wide Renewal, and said that he wanted us “to share with everyone in the Church the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

God’s timing is perfect. In 2019, WWCCR formed a Holy Spirit Retreat Committee and we were able to draw on all of the people we know who have been trained at the School of Prayer Ministry, Dwelling Place, Encounter, and so many others who are involved in local prayer groups. This team presented the first Life with the Holy Spirit Retreat in January, 2020. Then COVID hit and we waited on the Lord for his timing again. In November 2021, people started meeting by Zoom to pray, plan, and start team development. These monthly meetings help the team grow together and develop core values for the ministry ahead.

We are ready to serve people who are hungry for a deeper life in the Spirit. We just had a Retreat in July, 2022 at St. Thomas in Tukwila and we have a possible retreat scheduled for this fall. The WWCCR office will be contacting parish Faith Formation staff to see if we can come to other parishes around the Archdiocese. The team is also available to come to local prayer groups. If your parish or prayer group is interested in hosting a Retreat, please contact the WWCCR office so we can get your group on the schedule.

The Life with the Holy Spirit Retreat brings new people into the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit. From there, retreatants will be looking for places to continue to grow. We will do our best to redirect them

to local prayer groups. Some may also want to join the team, where they will be mentored and trained to serve on future retreats.

We also need committed volunteers like you to bring this retreat to as many people as possible. We need small group leaders, people to give a teaching, a testimony, lead praise and worship, or serve as a prayer team. We need help with the registration table and hospitality. We need tech people who can set up sound systems and other technology. If you are unable to attend the Retreat, we also need people with marketing or graphics skills, or prayer warriors who will intercede for the Retreat from home.

As the Retreat team grows, it will open up new possibilities. We would really like to be able to reach out more to young adults, young families, Catholic high schools and Confirmation programs. We also need donors who see value in this Evangelistic outreach. We are suggesting a small registration donation to make the retreat available to as many as possible, but it doesn’t often cover our expenses. The Lord will provide, and we are grateful that he chooses to use us to support this work, to be his witnesses and serve his people. If you are interested in serving with this ministry, please contact the WWCCR office.

There is plenty to do. We start today, offering what we have to the Lord, ready to be sent. We hope that you will join us in bringing Jesus and the Holy Spirit to people all over this Archdiocese. ♦

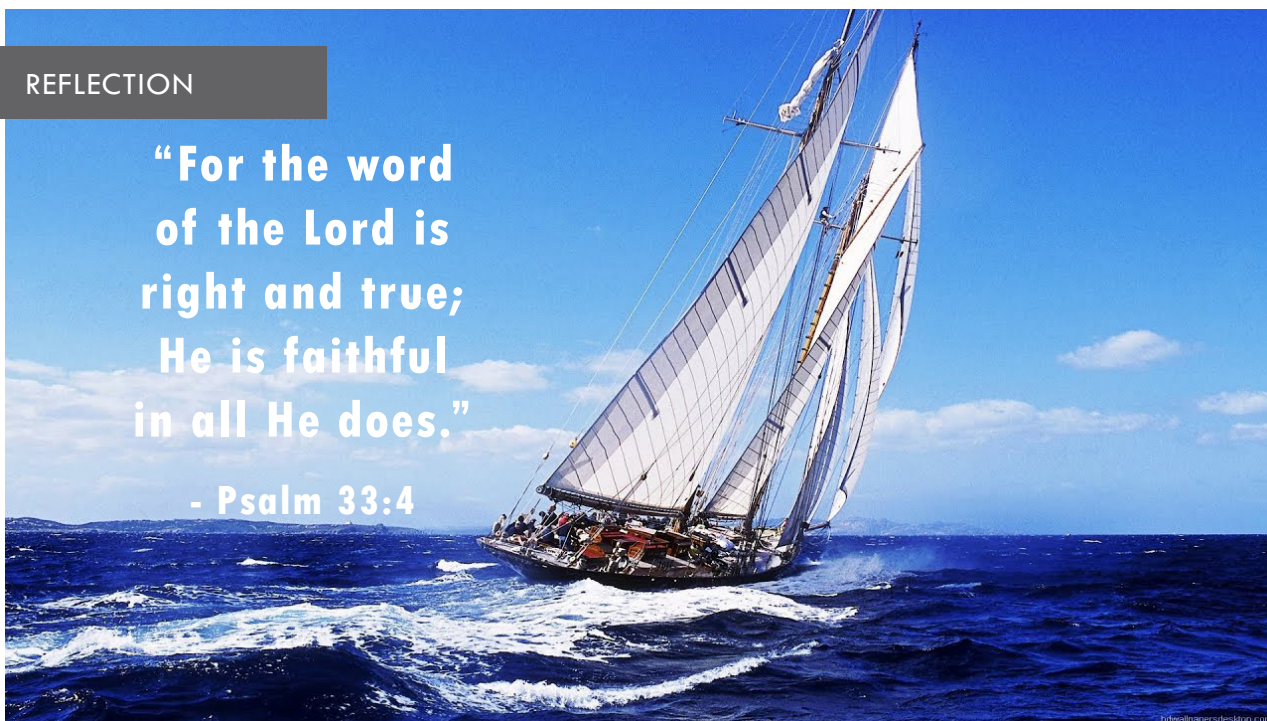
*Sharon Fox is the WWCCR Board President and a parishioner at St. Anthony parish, Renton.*



## REFLECTION

**“For the word  
of the Lord is  
right and true;  
He is faithful  
in all He does.”**

**- Psalm 33:4**



*by Drea Garcia*

As I reflect on this beautiful passage, I am reminded of WWCCR's Holy Spirit Retreat back in July to see how God has always been faithful time and time again to WWCCR. We were able to meet again with seventy new friends as we felt the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a strong and tangible way. Let me share with you examples from my perspective.

Being part of the presenting team and a small group facilitator, I observed the move of the Holy Spirit throughout the course of the day whether listening to why people were drawn to the retreat or hearing in my small group what they learned from the talks. Watching the attendees as the team gave their testimonies and how it touched them on a relatable level. It definitely spilled over to our small groups.

During the prayer ministry many people asked for the gift of tongues (high five!), and gifts like prophecy, teaching, discernment, wisdom and understanding scripture were given in the name of Jesus. Amazing! “He is faithful in all that he does.”

**REFLECTION:** Picture yourself on a sailboat with the horizon in front of you, go ahead, ask the Lord, “How are you awakening the gifts in me to grow stronger in the faith?”

**PRAYER:** Oh, Spirit of God, set my sails ready to go wherever the wind blows! It is the Holy Spirit that goes where it will, but it is by an invitation to events like these that we fulfill the mission of WWCCR. Come Holy Spirit. ♦

*Drea Garcia is a WWCCR Board member and a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament parish, Seattle.*

## 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 Frank Schuster	Oct 4	Bishop Frank Schuster
Sept 5	Fr. Jim Northrop	Oct 5	Fr. Jim Northrop
Sept 6	Fr. Donald Perea	Oct 6	Deacon John Ricciardi
Sept 7	Fr. Armando Perez	Oct 7	Deacon Michael Riggio
Sept 8	Fr. Leonardo Pestaño	Oct 8	Seminarian Kyle Rink
Sept 9	Fr. Vincent Peterson	Oct 9	Fr. Dennis Robb
Sept 10	Deacon Theman Pham	Oct 10	Deacon David Robinson
Sept 11	Fr. James Picton	Oct 11	Deacon Ted Rodriguez
Sept 12	Fr. Clement Piruwa	Oct 12	Fr. David Rogerson
Sept 13	Fr. Paul Pluth	Oct 13	Fr. Stephen Roman
Sept 14	Fr. Kyle Poje	Oct 14	Deacon Rey Ronquillo
Sept 15	Deacon Dale Pollard	Oct 15	Deacon Jack Roscoe
Sept 16	Fr. Marc Powell	Oct 16	Deacon Gary Rose
Sept 17	Deacon Daniel Powers	Oct 17	Fr. Cody Ross
Sept 18	Fr. Elias Puentes	Oct 18	Fr. Stephen Rowan
Sept 19	Fr. Matthew Pyrcé	Oct 19	Seminarian Sylvester Rozario
Sept 20	Fr. Thomas Quinn	Oct 20	Fr. Justin Ryan
Sept 21	Fr. Michael Radermacher	Oct 21	Fr. Michael Ryan
Sept 22	Fr. Philip Raether	Oct 22	Deacon Jerry Sadler
Sept 23	Deacon Arturo Ramirez	Oct 23	Fr. Roberto Saldivar
Sept 24	Fr. José Maria C. Ramirez Briseno	Oct 24	Deacon Ron San Nicolas
Sept 25	Deacon David Rapp	Oct 25	Fr. José de Jesus Sanchez
Sept 26	Fr. Michael Raschko	Oct 26	Fr. Ramon Santa Cruz
Sept 27	Fr. John Rashford	Oct 27	Fr. Timothy Sauer
Sept 28	Deacon LaMar Reed	Oct 28	Fr. Milhton Scarpetta
Sept 29	Deacon Steven Reeves	Oct 29	Deacon Duane Schireman
Sept 30	Deacon Rob Rensel	Oct 30	Fr. Dennis Sevilla
		Oct 31	Deacon Tim Shamrell

*Let us pray...*

In thanksgiving for all who attended the Life in the Holy Spirit retreat in July. We pray for all who experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so now they can grow in grace and the charisms. We pray for the team who served at the retreat, that the Lord bless them and help them grow in wisdom to be ready to serve again at the next retreat. May the Lord continue to draw others to serve in this ministry as we offer this retreat all around the Archdiocese.

For students and young adults who are seeking direction during this new school year, may they be aware of God's love and find strength in the Sacraments in their parish community.

For the sick, the grieving, the discouraged and the lonely among us, that they would find hope in Jesus and that the Lord will bless them as we pray for them today.

For the work of WWCCR, that the Lord will continue to raise up a people with a common vision to share baptism in the Holy Spirit with as many people as possible

Lord, hear our prayers.  
Amen.

*Lord, lift up your holy priests, deacons and seminarians; 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.*



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**GLEANNINGS**  
**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022**

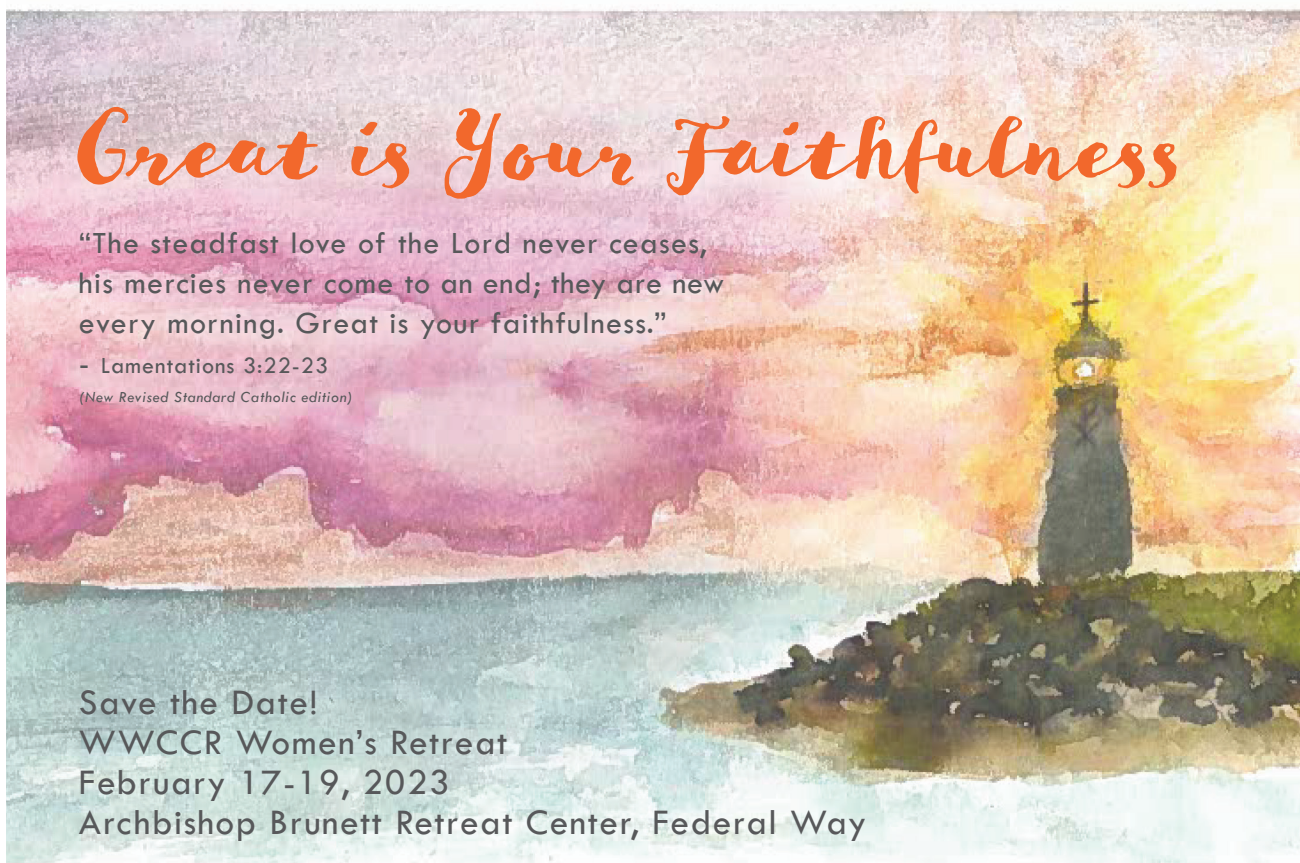
# *Great is Your Faithfulness*

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end; they are new  
every morning. Great is your faithfulness."

- Lamentations 3:22-23

(New Revised Standard Catholic edition)

Save the Date!  
WWCCR Women's Retreat  
February 17-19, 2023  
Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center, Federal Way



Artwork by Rose Achey