

## LESSONS FROM THE FLOOD

by Jean Beers

Christmas season 2022 with gift exchanges, decorations brought out from storage, new items to find a place for, caused me to pray for order in my home. I had in mind going through storage items,

**"I prayed for order with my physical house, the Lord worked on order in my spiritual house and my family."**

December 27 in fact, the day when my home flooded from the waters of Puget Sound during the bigger than usual King Tide.

I prayed for order with my physical house, the Lord worked on order in my spiritual house and my family. I wanted to pull out boxes and items stored away in darkness to sort and purge them. The Lord wanted to bring light to the darkness in my family relationships. The darkest place, under the cabin, the crawl space, was nowhere on my mind, yet that was the place where the Lord exposed the darkness in family relationships.

The Lord saved my car on Tuesday morning, December 27, when I left at 7:45 am for the Communion service at my parish church. I returned at 8:45 to find my street was flooded and impassable. (Some neighbors' vehicles were ruined by the saltwater flooding.) I pulled up to a dry area and called one of my sons who lived nearby. In no time, two

sons and a daughter-in-law showed up to begin the task of assessing the damage. We were able to pull out a dinghy from the nearby boathouse to row over to the cabin that had four inches of saltwater covering the ground floor.

Eight family members rallied to help and took on the jobs they could deal with, such as packing up household goods, labeling and storing them, demolition, opening up walls three feet up to prevent further damage; pulling out cabinets, bookcases, the vanity, appliances; setting up humidifiers and fans; and salvaging and drying damp yearbooks and other items. Later jobs included installing floors, dry walling, painting, plumbing, and electrical. I was blessed with

the needed skills by each one in contracting, carpentry, bookkeeping, organizing, etc. and just plain labor.

My appliances: stove, refrigerator, water heater, washer/dryer, and toilet were out on the front porch for all the neighborhood to see for about two months. Inside  
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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 notice of events that 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

The articles in this issue of GLEANINGS revolve around prayer. We hope these articles help you to relate to prayer in your lives. ♦ “Lessons from the Flood” by Jean Beers, page 1, reminds us that not only does prayer help us through natural disasters, letting go of things lost, but it also helps in the aftermath—in the interaction of those helping, in inner reflection, in communication, in forgiveness. Through prayer we recognize the gift of inner peace. ♦ Prayer when suffering is addressed by Sr. Renee Kittleson MSC, on page 5. One may suffer spiritually, emotionally, and physically; do not waste your sufferings. ♦ WWCCR has started a new program of bringing various prayer groups together with the theme, “Strengthening Prayer Groups.” With Fr. Jim Northrop as a speaker, the first program was held at St. Mary, Anacortes. Cathy Williams describes the event under the title, “The Power of a College Prayer Group,” the prayer group that Father attended and where he received the Baptism in the Spirit, lighting a fire that continues to spread in his teachings. We need more praise and worship in our gatherings, remembering that is the reason for our coming together. ♦ Andrea Garcia, in Reflections, page 6, tells us that 2024 is the Year of Prayer and about a specifically focused prayer group that she joined. Theresa Jordan, on page 4, Behind the Scenes, includes prayer as one of her daily tasks. As Lent continues, and the Easter Season begins, let’s resolve to have a deeper prayer life.

You can view the videos from Strengthening Prayer Groups on the WWCCR website: [wwccr.org](http://wwccr.org). ■

## DONOR SUPPORTED, ARCHDIOCESE APPROVED

WWCCR is under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Seattle, but as a nonprofit ministry depends solely on our supporters to pay our staff, the rent and our bills. Would you help us bring renewal to this region with Holy Spirit and healing events? Please say a prayer, asking the Lord how much you can afford to pledge each month for 2024. Those who set up monthly payments with WWCCR using their debit or credit cards, are asked to renew their gift at the beginning of each year. We thank you for partnering with us through your financial gift, your volunteering, and your prayers. For more information:



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humidifiers and fans dried out the floors and walls; cabinets, floorboards, and bookcases were pulled out and water-soaked items like the hide-a-bed with the dripping mattress were dragged out.

Two sons took on the ugly job of going under the cabin in the crawl space, dressed in hazmat suits, masks, and gloves, armed with crowbars, floodlights and tools to pull out dripping insulation with a few dead rat carcasses, lay down plastic vapor barrier, fill holes and install new screens. All the disgusting material was piled up outside where it was bagged and thrown into the dump trailer.

During this time tensions became apparent as each person tackled a different part of the huge mess in their own way. So, miscommunication, stress, and irritation surfaced. Questions arose, answers didn't come, suspicions came to mind, jealousies poked out and there was division, murmuring, hurt feelings, silence, and darkness. I was part of the problem with my own faults and secrecy.

The grace of God entered in, to cause us to pray about the situation, individually, two together, several together. Then there was light, revealing our personal contribution to the darkness of family tensions. We began, one by one, to admit our part and to ask for forgiveness. The resulting conversations revealed what motivated people to behave as they did: fear of failure in doing a job correctly, irritation at the manner of communicating, jealousy at supposed ownership of a job, feelings of not fitting in, trying to please everyone, covering over real feelings.

Asking forgiveness: The reconciliation between individuals and couples brought so much joy and



**Jean's house is the red one.**

**"I discovered that God's grace is not dependent on my merits, but is available even when I sin."**

freedom. Freedom from criticizing others, joy in doing a job together, joy in doing a good job. Also, the understanding of why a person does things a certain way. I was so grateful for the many occasions in the past when we had prayed together, beginning with the traditional blessing of food at family meals, when two of us prayed, or when we prayed as a group, laying a foundation of prayer in the family. Even when individuals did not want to pray together.

The gift of peace carried me throughout those months. I didn't panic or fill with fear. I was literally carried. A son and his wife made me welcome and loved in their home even when the time extended longer than first imagined.

Each day I had confidence that

with God's grace every job and challenge would be met with practical help and solutions. I discovered that God's grace is not dependent on my merits, but is available even when I sin. It isn't taken away when I harbor critical thoughts, instead they are brought up before my eyes so that I can confess them and be forgiven.

When everything was ready for moving back in we all breathed relief and felt a kind of victory. There was a satisfaction in seeing the old space cleaned up and renewed. It's still the same cabin, but with a newness that makes it fun again. And in the family, there is love that is stronger, more merciful and tender than before. The flood brought in darkness and ruin but God's grace met it head on and brought in light and renewal to the cabin and the family. ■

*Jean Beers is on the WWCCR Gleanings Planning Committee, she is a parishioner at St. Hubert Parish, Langley.*

## BEHIND THE SCENES @ WWCCR

*(WWCCR activities and events are organized by committees made up of willing volunteers and normally at least one member of the Board of Directors and/or office staff. Each committee has a specific role with particular responsibilities. This month, we would like to highlight the important work of our office volunteer, Theresa Jordan.)*

### FRONT DESK BLESSINGS

The holiness of helpfulness is to help others. I encounter countless blessings of this at the front desk at WWCCR. Greeting callers, answering various questions, taking prayer requests and praying for people are some of my daily tasks. It is such a joyful way to serve others.

Other duties include sharing information about WWCCR's website, assisting callers in locating a prayer group, providing information about WWCCR events, marketing, serving on committees and setting up events.

Volunteering to assist with ministry for the Lord is key to our call. The Holy Spirit moves in exciting ways as I encounter them behind the scenes. The Lord provides countless opportunities to support others and I gain skills in hospitality and ministry in doing so.

My tasks are just a small part of WWCCR's ministry. It is from a grateful heart that I get to assist all of those who support and participate in WWCCR. ■

*Theresa Jordan is a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament parish in Seattle.*

## THE POWER OF A COLLEGE PRAYER GROUP

by Cathy Williams

The power of Fr. Jim Northrop's college prayer group in Moscow, Idaho, and its teaching rose up, revived, as Father shared his early Holy Spirit experience with us to strengthen our prayer group now or cause us to find or start one. Here are highlights of the evening on January 19th at St. Mary's Parish in Anacortes that began with a "Holy Spirit" potluck, proceeding to joyful songs of praise and worship and Fr. Jim's teaching and exhortation.

At the present time there is still little teaching in our churches on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes where expected. Pope Benedict commented on I Corinthians 14:24-25, "But if everyone is prophesying, and an unbeliever or uninstructed person should come in he will be convinced by everyone and judged by everyone, and the secrets of his heart will be disclosed and so he will fall down and worship God declaring, 'God is really in your midst'." Pope Benedict said that all of our liturgies should be like this.

Father Jim encouraged us saying, "Prayer groups are leaven for our parishes." Be open. Pray over each other being formed continually. Seek and reach that current of love so precious in his midst. Joy comes from the Holy Spirit who works in our hearts. The fire in our heart is an ember that needs stoking to flare up. That fire is love, the Holy Spirit.

Charismatic prayer groups begin with songs of praise and worship welcoming the arrival of the Holy Spirit with expectant faith. A response is necessary. Prayer groups can respond with the power of the Holy Spirit bringing amazing gifts upon the group, their family and their parish.

Father Jim referred to I Corinthians chapter 12, the spiritual gifts. "There are different gifts but the same Spirit, there is one and the same Spirit, do not despise the gifts but test everything." Not everything that comes to mind is from the Holy Spirit. Teaching and exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit are essential in learning how to use the gifts. Our prayer groups are a school to learn them.

Charisms are not a sign of personal piety. There should be a spirit of humility in prayer groups. Don't attack one another. We are many parts of one Body where everyone is welcomed. Continue welcoming. Some people are more expressive than others. Be ready at all times to give an account of yourselves. Share your faith. Speak the truth in love. Give your personal testimony. Invite people to the prayer meeting. Fellowship is important.

Discouragement: When there is a feeling of desolation seek the reason. Teaching from St. Ignatius gives three reasons: First, ask, is there sin in my life? Second, is this a time of teaching? Third, is this a testing of whether I love the experiences or God himself?

If you are not part of a prayer group ask your parish priest for his blessings as you start one. The WWCCR office has resources for you, speakers for you and prayer warriors praying for your success. Prayer groups are leaven for our parishes and our church. Rise up in transforming love, changing lives in the Holy Spirit. ■

*Cathy Williams is WWCCR Board President and parishioner at St. Joseph Parish, Issaquah.*



# SUFFER WELL

by Sr. Renee Kittleson MSC

Suffering is the result of the original sin of Adam and Eve. God told them not to eat of a certain tree, but they ate of it anyway. When we fail to keep God's Ten Commandments, we often find that things do not go well.

One may suffer spiritually, emotionally, and physically. There is no saint or famous person who has not suffered. Jesus said that we must take up our cross daily and follow him. We may find consolation in the following scripture, "...things work together for good to those who love God..." Romans 8:28.

Often our suffering may be caused by others. What is the solution? Jesus said, "*I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you*" Matthew 5:44. Are we kind to our enemies and pray for them? Some enemies we can only be kind to from a distance for our own safety, but we must remember to pray for them.

Jesus forgave the men who crucified him when he said, "*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.*" Luke 23:34. Forgiveness is not a feeling but a decision. In our own prayer of forgiveness, we can join with Jesus in praying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

There are sufferings that occur to us by circumstances beyond our control. One of my favorite scriptures is Philippians 4:4-7, "*Rejoice in the Lord always. Dismiss all anxiety from your mind. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and petition, full of gratitude... then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*"

We should not waste our sufferings. It is a good idea to offer up our daily sufferings each morning by praying a morning offering. For example, Dear Jesus, I offer you all my sufferings of this day for the conversion of many sinners.

Sometimes it feels like our prayers are not answered. God's time is not necessarily ours. We read, "*There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under heavens*" Ecclesiastes 3:1. When someone dies, we may feel that they passed too soon, but God holds the key to life and to death. I prayed for the conversion of my father, and it happened after sixty years of prayer. Then it took at least twelve years of prayer, studies and volunteering in jails and prisons for me to realize my dream job of becoming a prison chaplain.

Prayer is powerful. It can change the course of human events. Jesus said, "*Ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you*" Matthew 7:7.

## There are three different answers to prayer:

1. Yes, and I will do so soon.
2. No, but I have a better plan.
3. Wait.

## In summary

1. Pray about your problems.
2. Take one day at a time.
3. Offer up your sufferings.
4. God helps those who help themselves.  
What should you be doing to facilitate the answer to your prayer?
5. Count your blessings daily. ■

*Sr. Renee Kittleson, MSC lives and works with senior sisters in New York's Lower Manhattan and volunteers at a nearby nursing home.*

Every 25 years, the Church celebrates a Jubilee year, and the Jubilee of 2025 will have the motto:



Pope Francis has asked that we prepare for the Jubilee by making 2024 a “Year of Prayer.” He envisions this as a “symphony of prayer” and suggests at least 5 ways for us to focus our prayer during the coming year.

For the next two months, let us focus on:

**“Thanking God for the many gifts of his love for us and praising his work in creation; Praying that all people will respect creation and take concrete and responsible steps to protect all that God has made.”**

For more information on the Jubilee and the Year of Prayer, go to: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>



## REFLECTION

Seven Sisters Apostolate

# THE YEAR OF PRAYER

by Drea Garcia

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” ~Ephesians 6:18~*

*“I ask you to intensify your prayer to prepare us to live well this event of grace and to experience the strength of God’s hope therefore, today we begin “The Year of Prayer.”  
~Pope Francis, Angelus, Sunday January 21, 2024~*

In 2018 my friend, Juanita, a recent convert to the Catholic faith asked if I would be interested in praying with a few ladies at our parish. Sure! You bet! I love praying! I soon found out that this wouldn't be your typical group of prayer ladies and that I was in for a deeper, more focused way of praying.

You've heard the saying, "Prayer changes everything." Well, in this case, it changed me.

Being part of a Seven Sisters Apostolate group answering a specific call to pray for specific intentions of our pastor has been a spiritual highlight for the past six years. Part of our commitment prayer says, "We pray for strength when he is tired or weak, perseverance when the spirit of prayer wanes, guidance when he is discerning or lost, consolation when he is suffering, hope when the sacrifices seem too heavy and manifold blessings upon him and his ministry."

I have seen the fruits of prayer in the ministries at church. New ministries are popping up. It has definitely been a ripple effect. Prayer changes people. Prayer changes everything. What a great way to start living out the Year of Prayer.

**Reflection.** How can I live out the Year of Prayer for my family and church community?

**Action.** Intensify your prayer life. ■

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

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

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

Mar 1 Pope Francis	Apr 1 Pope Francis
Mar 2 Archbishop Paul Etienne D.D., S.T.L.	Apr 2 Archbishop Paul Etienne, D.D., S.T.L.
Mar 3 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.S.p.S., D.D.	Apr 3 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.S.p.S., D.D.
Mar 4 Bishop Frank Schuster, D.D.	Apr 4 Bishop Frank Schuster, D.D.
Mar 5 Fr. Jim Northrop	Apr 5 Fr. Jim Northrop
Mar 6 Fr. Emilio Gonzalez	Apr 6 Deacon Fred Johnson
Mar 7 Deacon Jose Gonzalez	Apr 7 Fr. Tyler Johnson
Mar 8 Deacon Lawrence Gorman	Apr 8 Fr. James Johnson, Jr.
Mar 9 Deacon Gerald Graddon	Apr 9 Fr. Clarence Jones
Mar 10 Fr. Chad Green	Apr 10 Deacon Dave Jones
Mar 11 Deacon Jeffrey Greer	Apr 11 Fr. Bernard Jonientz
Mar 12 Fr. Randy Guarino	Apr 12 Fr. Nicholas Kayongo
Mar 13 Fr. Mark Guzman	Apr 13 Deacon Patrick Kelley
Mar 14 Fr. Armando Guzman	Apr 14 Deacon Dennis Kelly
Mar 15 Fr. Bradley Hagelin	Apr 15 Deacon Lyle Kendall
Mar 16 Deacon Bill Hamlin	Apr 16 Deacon Larry Kheriaty
Mar 17 Fr. W.R. Harris	Apr 17 Fr. Young-Kwan Kim
Mar 18 Seminarian Nathan Hatch	Apr 18 Fr. Mark Kiszewski
Mar 19 Fr. Richard Hayatsu	Apr 19 Fr. Ronald Knudsen
Mar 20 Fr. Anthony Haycock	Apr 20 Deacon Richard Labrecque
Mar 21 Fr. Kenneth Haydock	Apr 21 Deacon Loren Lane
Mar 22 Deacon Thomas Hayward	Apr 22 Fr. Derek Lappe
Mar 23 Fr. William Heric	Apr 23 Fr. Leo Larrivee
Mar 24 Fr. Bryan Hersey	Apr 24 Fr. Seamus Lavery
Mar 25 Fr. Chad Hill	Apr 25 Fr. Gary Lazzeroni
Mar 26 Fr. Phuong Hoang	Apr 26 Fr. Francis Le, O.P.
Mar 27 Fr. Christopher Hoiland	Apr 27 Fr. James Lee
Mar 28 Deacon Del Hoover	Apr 28 Fr. Se Ho Lee
Mar 29 Fr. Timothy Ilgen	Apr 29 Fr. Dwight Lewis
Mar 30 Fr. Caleb Insko	Apr 30 Deacon Juan Lezcano, OFS
Mar 31 Deacon James Johnson	

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve the Archdiocese of Seattle as priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may: announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free, and renew the face of the earth. Amen

## INTERCESSIONS

*Let us pray...*

*For this Lent,*  
may we draw closer  
to the Lord with a greater  
desire for repentance and  
reconciliation. Change our  
hearts, Lord, so that we  
can love and forgive  
more like you.

*For this Easter,*  
may we proclaim that  
Jesus is Lord to everyone  
we meet and bring that love  
of Jesus through the power  
of the Holy Spirit to others.

*For this Spring,*  
as we await the  
announcement of the new  
pastors for our parishes  
around the Archdiocese,  
may the Lord bless and  
prepare each priest for  
their new assignment.  
May the Lord align each  
pastor with the right parish  
so that together they are  
ready to serve and minister  
to the new parish family  
during this *Partners in the  
Gospel* process.

*For this ministry of WWCCR,*  
may we be invited to more  
parishes and prayer groups  
so that we more people  
can experience baptism in  
the Holy Spirit.

*Come Holy Spirit,*  
hear our prayer. Amen.



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SAVE THE DATE

**GLEANNINGS**  
MARCH/APRIL 2024



*Be  
Filled*  
with the Holy Spirit

You Are Invited

## **Pentecost Mass**

Saturday, May 11th  
10:00am  
at St. Pius Parish,  
Mountlake Terrace

*Homily*

Fr. Cal Christiansen

*Co-Celebrant*

Fr. Jim Northrop

Fellowship & potluck  
to follow