



WESTERN WASHINGTON CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

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 2025

Volume LI Number 6

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORDS

by Sharon Fox

Photo: Pixabay/Stocksnap

I like to do word puzzles because they challenge me and make me think. Scripture study of a particular word can challenge and reap spiritual benefits. Recently, I've run into a reflective scriptural word puzzle on the word "word." As we head into the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas I invite you to ponder and reflect with me on the meaning of "the word."

In the beginning

Did you ever notice that both the Book of Genesis in the Old Testament and the Gospel of John start in very similar ways? Genesis 1:1-2 starts with the world in chaos. "Then God said:" (A word - verse 3) and there was light. Each day God spoke a word and the rest of the world was created. When God speaks his words, there is power! God's words are not frivolous or throw away. He speaks with love. He speaks with authority. His words are always true.

The Gospel of John starts off in a similar way with "In the beginning" and here John shows that Jesus "was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1. Here we see again that he establishes Jesus' place with God in salvation history. When you see patterns like this it's good to pause and ask, "Lord what do you want to show me here?" For one thing, it reminds us that God is the beginning or the root of everything. Or another way to think of it is that nothing can "begin" without the Lord being involved. He didn't just show up; He has been here forever, creating the whole world and everything in it. The New Testament reference

to "the Word" refers to Jesus who came to give us a new covenant. As the Word, even his name, spoken, is powerful! Then in John 1:5, John reminds us that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." The Word (Jesus) brings light into our lives to remove the darkness that can surround us.

Words of light and words of darkness

Since Jesus is our light, we need to stay close to him. To stray away from his glow through sin and unfor-giveness can expose us to darkness. This is all the more reason why we need to seek conversion. Romans 12:2 reminds us "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." How do you receive a renewed mind? Through words!—the words that you speak and meditate on through conversations, reading, and what you view. A renewed mind will speak words of light.

So what might these words of light look like: blessing, affirmation, truth, exhortation, etc.

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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 testimonies 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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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

by Sharon Fox, *Interim Director*

The WWCCR Board of Directors has announced a new search for an Executive Director. While we have been able to keep costs down with limited staffing and lots of volunteers, we lack someone who will lead us forward, reaching more people. To hire someone with the knowledge and experience that we need, we need to increase our monthly ministry income to be able to pay a living wage for his/her particular skills. The only way to do this is through offering our events and contributions from people like you. (Check out the job description on our website at WWCCR.org.)

YOU CAN HELP US MOVE FORWARD!

PRAY! The Lord has someone in mind for this important position. We need that person to listen to the Spirit's promptings and apply. We need the Board to discern the right candidate for the job who will be the best fit with the mission of WWCCR. So please pray!

PROMOTE! Go to our website and read the job description. If you know someone who might be qualified for the job, share it with them, and then pray some

more. You never know who the right fit might be.

PARTICIPATE! We'd love to see you at any of our WWCCR events! Our praises together help build each other up! Being a vibrant community will attract a new Executive Director. Consider being a volunteer on a committee or at an event. We always need extra hands and prayerful ideas. If you are interested in helping in some way, please contact the WWCCR office for more information.

PLEDGE! Please consider donating to WWCCR in some ongoing way. This helps us plan our budget. Any amount (\$10, \$25, or more) given once a month is so greatly appreciated. Not able to donate every month? Please remember to donate every time you attend a WWCCR event. Many no longer carry cash or a checkbook. We often offer online options at our events, or you can donate at the WWCCR.org website anytime that's convenient for you.

Together, we are WWCCR! Let us trust in the Lord to provide for our needs and guide us deeper into the life of the Holy Spirit! ■

We wish to thank the St. Joseph Foundation of the Archdiocese of Seattle for their generous grant to WWCCR to help people grow their prayer life with the help of the Holy Spirit.

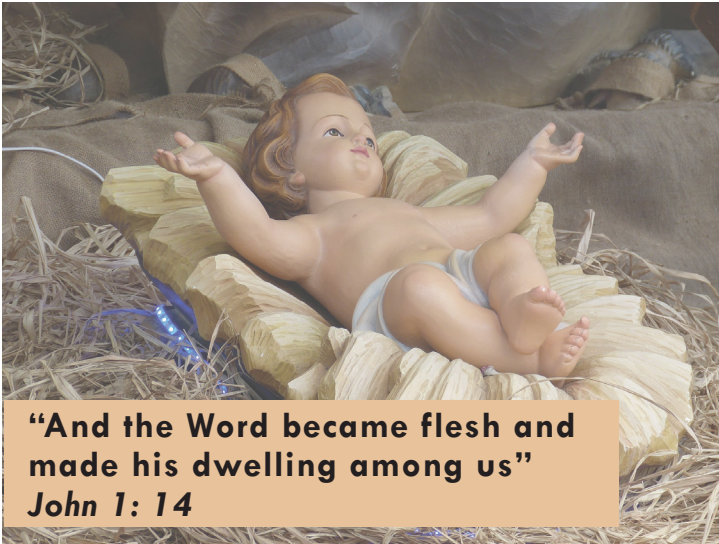
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Every donation, no matter the size, helps us continue our goal of sharing baptism in the Holy Spirit with others. Please consider supporting us with a one-time or a recurring donation. If you'd like to learn more about our programs or to get involved, please don't hesitate to contact us. We ask God to bless you abundantly for your support and your prayers. For more information:

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Where will these words come from? How will you know that you have words of light to share with others? Through filling your own mind and heart with words of light through scripture study, heartfelt prayer, repentance, humility, confession, and living a sacramental life. When you fill your mind and heart with words of light, you can begin to take on the mind of Christ (*Phil. 4:8*). This can also develop a stronger sense of discernment because you have become attuned to what Jesus has said in the scriptures. Like any new habit it takes time to change the words that you speak to yourself and others. But each day as you take time to pray and seek the Lord, he will begin to do the amazing work of conversion in your life. Do you want to speak words of life to yourself and others? Then ask, seek, and find (*Matt. 7:7-8*). Sometimes when you are speaking words of light to a person and they don't receive, their heart may be dark. With discernment, you will know that your words of light are still needed. As you seek to love that person through your prayer, your actions and with your words, your message always has a chance of getting through. So keep sharing words of light with others.

So what might these words of darkness look like? These are the words that cause confusion. They bring doubt and hate. Not only do they inflict pain on other people, but speaking them may even separate you from the love of God. What's the remedy? JESUS! Always Jesus! But the darkness did not overcome them (*John 1:4*). Jesus' words bring life!

Here are some scriptures about words that you might use during your own scriptural word puzzle reflection:

Therefore, put away all filth and evil excess and humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

James 1:21-22

For from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

Matthew 12:34

Let the words of my mouth be acceptable, the thoughts of my heart before you, LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalms 19:15

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

Going deeper into "the Word"

Studying scripture will help you grow in speaking words of light to others. Recently the Life with the Holy Spirit team experienced *Lexio Divina* to dive in deeper to the meaning of a scripture. They sat together listening to the leader read a scripture slowly four different times. New inspirations came to mind, and each person was able to share them with the group. This is a beautiful way to experience the words of Jesus during this holiday season. For more information, you can go to <https://www.usccb.org/resources/lectio-divina.pdf>.

As we prepare for Jesus' birth and the celebration of light that he brings, let us spend this time reflecting on the word that was made flesh and how we can share those words of light with others. ■

Sharon Fox is the WWCCR Interim Director and a parishioner of Parish Family 23 at St. Anthony in Renton.

MY HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT EXPERIENCE

by Chris Peterson

I don't remember exactly how I heard about the WWCCR-sponsored Life with the Holy Spirit Retreat at Sacred Heart Parish in Enumclaw in July, but I am certain that the Holy Spirit wanted me to attend. I was also pleased that my parish priest, Fr. Jim Northrop, has served as WWCCR's Spiritual Director since 2005.

I look forward to using these new gifts of the Spirit in my parish and my workplace!

Still, I had a bit of fear about attending this event. I'm normally a pretty reserved person and I shy away from places where I fear that people are losing the sacred tradition. I was previously Protestant until the Easter Vigil of 2019. You see, I was raised in the Lutheran faith tradition, and in my young adult years I attended both Baptist and Assemblies of God churches. There were some dramatic memories that were very uncomfortable for me and my wife and then we retreated into a more conservative evangelical denomination.

But I stepped out in faith, and just before we were to pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts, I asked Fr. Jim if he had some assurance that it is a truly Catholic experience and he assured me, yes it was and we chatted about Cardinal Cantalamessa, the papal preacher, and how he was part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I also told Fr. Jim I didn't know what gift to pray for and he said that it was okay to not ask for a specific gift.

They prayed over me and I felt a warm joyful feeling and sensed God was doing something in my life. There were two words that were also mentioned which were Wisdom and Understanding and I reflected on what those words and gifts might mean.

A few weeks later I felt the need to go to confession and wondered about whether something was a sin and the priest said yes it was. I had somehow discounted it, that it wasn't a big deal and hadn't

confessed it for some time. Once he confirmed it was a sin, I confessed it and he gave me a few words to reflect on. They were seemingly unrelated to anything I had discussed with him in confession, and then he said the words, Wisdom and Understanding.

Later that evening, as I was reading the evening prayer, I came across this verse and the words seemed to leap out at me in an intense way such as I had never experienced: "God chose us in him before the world began to be holy and blameless in his sight." Canticum from Ephesians 1:3-10. It was definitely God speaking these words directly to me. Then I read, "God has given us the wisdom to understand fully the mystery, the plan he was pleased to decree in Christ." Those words, wisdom and understanding, again leapt out at me.

I think God was waiting to have me confess a particular sin and then he gave me the full gift. I also had a sense of the severity of sin and felt more desolation before confessing my sins and more consolations once confessed.

Four weeks later I came to our retreat follow-up and didn't know that God had more great things to share with me. He wants me to share my testimony and to help bring lapsed Catholics back to church. That was music to my ears as I feel passionately that God wants to bring so many back into his church and to bring those outside to come home to his one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.

I wanted to also share that I received the gift of tongues in an extra prayer at the follow-up meeting four weeks later. God is so good and I am so thankful that I was able to attend this Life with the Holy Spirit Retreat and I look forward to using these new gifts of the Spirit in my parish and my workplace! ■

Chris Peterson is a parishioner of Parish Family 32 at Sacred Heart Parish, Enumclaw.

HUMOR BRINGS HOPE: MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

by Kathleen Kaska

Born and raised Catholic and having attended Catholic school, I went to Mass every Sunday until I was twenty-three. After I left home for college, I started having serious doubts about my faith. I vividly remember the moment I decided to leave the Church. I had attended Mass at a different parish, and during the priest's homily—I don't remember the exact gospel—he vehemently stated that a woman's place was in the home. This was during the early 70s when the women's liberation movement was at its height. I fought hard not to walk out on this priest, but after I left the church that Sunday, I knew I wasn't coming back. This unholy hiatus lasted about ten years, followed by a slow and sporadic return that took even longer.

What made me return for good? What led me to fully embrace the Roman Catholic Church as if my life depended on it? The answer: humor.

While taking public-speaking lessons, one of the assignments was to give an introductory speech about my childhood. As with any speech, I began making notes and refining them into a written version of my speech. It might seem strange for a writer not to want to write about herself, but I had never been interested in writing a memoir because I felt my life wasn't interesting enough for others to want to read about it, so this speech assignment was challenging. I began by writing about my struggles as a quiet and shy child who felt intimidated and was angry at her mother from a very early age. I also resented her for not being emotionally present for me. But once I started writing, the tone shifted from serious to humorous, and then the words came easily. I delivered the speech and was asked to speak more on the same topic. Writing humor has always been easy for me, and this assignment opened the door to my return to the Church. That eventually led me to write light-hearted blog posts about growing up Catholic in a small Texas town. Over the years, the topics of my blog have evolved from "growing up Catholic" to "being a grown-up

Catholic." This helped me relax and let go of the anxiety and guilt I carried around during those rebellious years.

I learned how to handle the struggles I faced as a child, but eventually, simply managing them was no longer enough because I still harbored anger and resentment. After nearly seventy years, it had brought me to my knees. I had to take action, so I decided to make an appoint-

ment with my priest. I didn't expect our time together to ease my anxiety much. I was sure he would say something like "we all have our crosses to bear." After listening to me ramble on for a while, I was surprised when he said, "Kathleen, you have to find your voice and use it." I understood what he meant. I needed to speak up for myself and stop holding onto those negative emotions, which had also contributed to physical problems.

That moment changed my life. Things started to unfold. My priest gave me the books *Be Healed*, by Bob Schuchts, and *The Body Keeps Score*, by Bessel Van Der Kolk. After reading them, I realized I needed to make amends for all the anger and resentment I had felt. I had forgiven my mother years ago for not giving me the love and support I needed, but that didn't remove my anger and resentment. She passed away a few years ago, and I prayed to her to accept my apology. Then I began apologizing to others in my life toward whom I felt anger and resentment. I asked my husband to pray with me. In doing so, the anger and re-resentment almost instantly fell away, bringing me the peace I had always wanted. My physical health began to improve, and my devotion to Jesus and his Church deepened.

I am back, and I'm here to stay. ■

Kathleen Kaska is a parishioner of Parish Family 1 at St. Mary Parish in Anacortes.

Introducing New Board Member



Deacon Carl Mary Chilo, O. P. L.

Deacon Carl was born and raised in Louisiana. He was ordained in 2012. He holds a Bachelor of Theology and a Certificate of Spiritual Direction. His primary ministry focus is pastoral care, faith formation, and healing. He has served as a Detention Chaplain, Hospice Chaplain, Seafarers Chaplain, Chairman of the Social Justice Committee, RCIA Coordinator, Marriage Coordinator and Healing Prayer Minister. He is Co-founder of the Encounter School of Ministry Seattle Campus. He is a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Peter Claver. He is also a Lay member of the Dominican Order of Preachers. He enjoys hiking, fishing, cooking, and reading books about the Holy Eucharist. ■

REFLECTION

THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE

by Drea Garcia

My reflection begins where my last article left off. (From the September/October 2025 issue, *The Amazing Fingerprint of God*, last paragraph: "Now how can you make a mark in your family, church and work community?")

At the end of September I went to visit my dad at his new home in Port Orchard. After a wonderful family dinner everyone left and my sister and I sat with Dad and visited for awhile. As we were getting up to leave I received a surge of courage and pulled out of my purse the latest issue of Gleanings to share with him "The Amazing fingerprint of God" article I had written in the last issue. It was written from a long and deep conversation with my dad a few months earlier and I wanted to continue talking about it, but it was a long day and he was getting tired. He put the newsletter aside and there the conversation ended.

Two days later I got a phone call from him saying, "I wanted to call and say that I just read your article and I really enjoyed it!" He went on to say how much it opened him to look at God as Father in a completely different way. My dad read it! To hear him reflect on my article, my words, I felt happy and alive. I got excited because he was excited!

If my earthly father was thrilled to hear the words from a daughter, how much more does our Heavenly Father rejoice when we share Jesus and the Holy Spirit with the people we know and the strangers we will soon get to know.

May the word of God be alive and active in you.

REFLECTION: How can your words and actions activate a true conversation with a family member that God is calling you to initiate?

ACTION: Pray to the Holy Spirit to show you what you need to do in that situation, then step out of the boat!

Drea Garcia is WWCCR Board Vice President and a parishioner of Parish Family 55 at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Seattle.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:

Nov 1 Pope Leo XIV	Dec 1 Pope Leo XIV
Nov 2 Archbishop Paul Etienne D.D. STL	Dec 2 Archbishop Paul Etienne D.D. STL
Nov 3 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S	Dec 3 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S
Nov 4 Bishop Frank Schuster, D.D.	Dec 4 Bishop Frank Schuster, D.D.
Nov 5 Fr. Jim Northrop	Dec 5 Fr. Jim Northrop
Nov 6 Fr. Patrick Sherrard	Dec 6 Fr. Thomas Tran
Nov 7 Fr. Vinner Raj Simeon Raj, H.G.N.	Dec 7 Fr. Vu Tran
Nov 8 Fr. Richard Spicer	Dec 8 Sem. Fred Tucker
Nov 9 Fr. Aloysius Ssensamba	Dec 9 Deacon Asipeli Tuifua
Nov 10 Deacon Daniel Stamper	Dec 10 Deacon Sonny Ungco
Nov 11 Seminarian Simon Stehr	Dec 11 Deacon Gene Vanderzanden
Nov 12 Fr. Todd Strange	Dec 12 Fr. Lucio Villalobos
Nov 13 Deacon Mirek Sztajno	Dec 13 Deacon Dick Wallace
Nov 14 Fr. Mel Strazicich	Dec 14 Fr. John Walmesley
Nov 15 Fr. Thomas Suss	Dec 15 Deacon Richard Werner
Nov 16 Fr. Stephen Szeman	Dec 16 Fr. Edward White
Nov 17 Fr. Marcin Szymanski, O.P.	Dec 17 Fr. Nicholas Wichert
Nov 18 Fr. Joseph Tapia-Beeman	Dec 18 Fr. John Wilke
Nov 19 Deacon Ike Tarabi	Dec 19 Deacon Steve Wodzanowski
Nov 20 Fr. Kingsley Tebulo	Dec 20 Fr. Stephen Woodland
Nov 21 Deacon Mike Teskey	Dec 21 Fr. Gerald Woodman
Nov 22 Fr. Navy Kumar Thomas	Dec 22 Deacon Joua Pao Yang
Nov 23 Fr. Stephen Thomas, H.G.N	Dec 23 Fr. David Young
Nov 24 Fr. Brian Thompson	Dec 24 Fr. Reyaldo Yu
Nov 25 Fr. Frances Thumbi	Dec 25 Deacon Joseph Yuen
Nov 26 Deacon Donald Tillitson	Dec 26 Deacon Gary Zellmer
Nov 27 Fr. John Paul Tomassi	Dec 27 Fr. Gary Zender
Nov 28 Deacon Bill Townsend	Dec 28 Fr. Marlo Abad
Nov 29 Fr. Anh Tran	Dec 29 Deacon Stewart Adams
Nov 30 Fr. Anthony Tran	Dec 30 Fr. Peter Adoko-Enchill
	Dec 31 Sem. Aidan Aguero

Let us pray, 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 the Board's discernment during our Executive Director search, so that we find the right person who will help WWCCR reach more people with baptism in the Holy Spirit.

For a heart of gratitude that we may recognize that "all good giving and every perfect gift is from above"
(James 1:17).

For an Advent with a new awareness of the words of Jesus and may we each grow to appreciate and live out what he teaches us today.

For all parish families in the Archdiocese of Seattle to continue to grow together in wisdom and service. May the Holy Spirit continue to direct them in their planning and discussions so that they will truly reflect the light of Christ in everything they do.

For the needs of all those who serve on WWCCR committees, the Board and the office staff. We especially pray for healing, for strength, and for open hearts as we strive to share with others the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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



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GLEANNINGS
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

"HE LED FORTH HIS PEOPLE WITH JOY;
WITH SHOUTS OF JOY, HIS CHOSEN ONES." - PSALM 105:43

NOVEMBER 15TH @ 10AM

WWCCR ANNIVERSARY

Celebrate

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