



GLEANINGS

Renewing the face of the earth † *Empowered by the Holy Spirit*

APRIL 2011 - VOLUME XXXVII NUMBER 4

“The Lenten journey, in which we are invited to contemplate the Mystery of the Cross, is meant to reproduce within us “the pattern of his death” (Phil 3:10), so as to effect a deep conversion in our lives; that we may be transformed by the action of the Holy Spirit, like St. Paul on the road to Damascus...”

Message for Lent 2011, 3
Benedict XVI

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Our Lenten Journey

The Way of the Cross - Part 2

This article is Part 2 of a Lenten reflection, with many scriptures to meditate upon concerning four steps to deeper conversion – surrender, obedience, sacrifice and unity – to deepen our faith, hope and love. Part 1 was in last month’s GLEANINGS. It is available for reference on our website at: www.wwccr.org/newsletter/gleanings.htm These articles are the fruit of Deacon Richard Labrecque’s journey of faith, and adapted from the teaching he shares with his RCIA group in Port Angeles. With Deacon Richard’s permission they are edited and revised by Virginia King.

SUMMARY OF PART 1:

Through **surrender** we lose our pride and vanity, independence and self-sufficiency (*death*) – and we gain our identity as beloved children of God (*resurrection*).

Through **obedience** we lose our human wisdom (*death*) and gain eternal salvation (*resurrection*).

Through **loving sacrifice**, we lose our human attachments to comfort and security (*death*) and we gain the joy of sharing in the work of salvation (*resurrection*).

This month we’ll look deeper into the sacrifice of Jesus and continue with the final step, which is unity with God.

PART 2:

There is not a moment that Jesus and His Father do not feel love and tender care for us. We can never be beyond the love of God. St. Paul reminds us: *“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Rom 8:37-39

It is hard to envision a person willingly placing themselves in harm’s way for another. But it does happen and perhaps the most common example of this is parenthood. How many parents suffer pain for the birth of a baby, or suffer financial costs to educate, clothe and feed them? And how many parents have given more - kidney, blood, even life itself - to save their child’s life when needed? Is it not love that powers and enables these sacrifices? If you find deep love, it’s easy to envision deep sacrifice.

While it is valuable to reflect on the great sufferings of Christ, there is a much deeper story revealed in His passion and death. The cross of Christ is about love, not merely about suffering. Christ’s love is Passion(ate).

See *Journey on page 2*



From Virginia's Desk

When I see the tips of green push through the soil in early spring, with the promise of brilliant flowers to come, I reflect on the perseverance of life. What is the urgency that causes a dried up bulb to send forth a thin shoot? What is it that motivates nature to press forward with newness of life out of the cold, dark earth? Regardless of the harshness of the storms of winter, springtime comes each year.

Lent is the springtime of the liturgical season. It is the time of new life pushing its way through the darkness of our sinful habits, of our complacency, of our sadness, of our fear. It is the time for new growth that will bring a new season of fruitfulness. The perseverance of nature provides a model for us to persevere through the storms of life that come our way, to persevere in faith, in hope and in love.

Lent is a season of pushing through the soil, and is fulfilled in the flowering of Easter. After death is resurrection. In a certain sense, the whole of our earthly existence could be seen as a springtime, a persevering and pushing through. Our fulfillment, our flowering, and our fruitfulness are only fully revealed in the resurrection. And this is not something we simply speculate about – Jesus' resurrection is also our



own: "Are you unaware that we who were baptized in Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." Rom 6:3-4

God created us for life! There is urgency in all of creation to be alive, to reach out of the coldness and darkness to warmth and light. This is our destiny! And it is not for our sake alone but for the next generation. Each season of growth is for the sake of bearing fruit. Our Lent and our Easter flow directly into Pentecost – when we are "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49) and sent forth to bear fruit.

So during this Lent and Easter Season, take every opportunity to prepare yourself for Pentecost. I would urge as many as possible to attend one of the "Come Holy Spirit" series that are mentioned on page 7. And mark your calendar for June 11, and make plans to come to the Pentecost Celebration (see page 6). Spend time praying with the daily Mass readings. Allow them to water the soil for your new growth. Know that you are joined in your season of growth by all the rest of the Church. You are not alone! You walk with Jesus and with all who accompany him. Together we will fulfill our destiny!

Journey continued

To unveil this love, we need to reflect upon the words He used during the dreadful events of His Passion.

1. **"Father, forgive them..."** Luke 23:34 Jesus expressed His *love* by showing us the way of forgiveness. Forgiveness is essential for us to gain heaven. We must receive the forgiveness of the Father. And we must also forgive others. If Jesus can forgive the harshness and rejection of the crucifixion, surely we can forgive lesser offenses.
2. **"I thirst."** John 19:28 Jesus thirsts not for water, but for us. His *love*, which He receives from the Father, is infinite towards us, unworthy though we are. He thirsts for us to receive His love - to allow Him to embrace and envelope us in His Love; and for us to return His love.
3. **"My God, why have you forsaken me?"** Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34 These are the opening words of Psalm 22, which prophetically describes the passion of Jesus, the Suffering Servant. But it is not a cry of despair. Rather, it is an affirmation that God will deliver him and cause "all generations" to worship the Lord. God comes

continued next page

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:

Our mission is to renew the face of the earth by nurturing and inspiring Catholics:

- ❖ *To experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through baptism in the Holy Spirit*
- ❖ *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 monthly 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.

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DEADLINE: In order for any 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. **Items for the May 2011 issue are due April 1.**

Journey continued

to the aid of the oppressed. Death will be defeated once and for all. It is *love* that conquers death! To be the sacrificial lamb for the nation is glory, not disgrace.

4. **“This day you will be with Me in paradise.”** Luke 23:43 God’s desire is to bring us all into the fullness of *love*, the beautiful unity of the Trinity - to enjoy the infinite graces and blessings He has held for us since the first day of creation. This desire is so great that He offers the greatest gift He has, His Son, to repair the damage and open the gates to heaven for us. This is what Jesus accomplishes through His suffering. God heals. God saves.
5. **“This is your mother.”** John 19:27 What a *loving* gesture, that Jesus would share His mother with us. Eve was the mother of all creation, but Mary has become the mother of the New Creation! This mother cares for us, prays for us, and leads us to Her Son, who now becomes our brother. No one need worry or fear with this loving and perfect mother - such a special gift from God.
6. **“It is finished.”** John 19:30 Christ’s *love* went the whole way, to the last step and the last drop of blood. Jesus gives His all, as we are called to do - trusting that God will bring about our good and the good of others through our trust, surrender and obedience.
7. **“Into your hands I commend my spirit.”** Luke 23:46 Jesus confidently surrenders His spirit into the hands of the Father, because He knows that the **love** of the Father is trustworthy. When we surrender all we are and hope

to be to God, He will bring about the greatest of results.

As you can see, there is more to the Cross than accepting suffering. Suffering for suffering sake is not of great spiritual value. But sacrificial love for the benefit of others, working through suffering with grace and obedience - these have great value.

FOURTH STEP: UNITY

Our ultimate destiny is unity with God. Those who have taken the first three steps are united to God through imitation of the actions and Way of the Son. Due to their self-emptying and their growing dependency on God, they find themselves becoming less of who they were, and more of who God designed them to be.

As we grow spiritually, we become more and more like our Savior who is united with the Father. Through the power of His Spirit, we experience His Kingdom. We find ourselves united to the Trinity, unique in our person, but one with God in Will and Love, one in Way and Truth, one in Wisdom and Understanding. We want nothing else than to be one with our Creator - and He welcomes us into His oneness with open arms.

Jesus gives us great assurance: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?*

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.”

John 14:1-3

Once we have felt the Love of God, and have His Spirit



dwelling within us, there is only one place that we will ever want to be - living in His presence forever. *“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* Psalm 23:6

Through unity, we lose all that keeps us bound to the earth (*death*) and we gain the realization of all we have hoped for in the kingdom of heaven (*resurrection*).

Reflection question: What specific action can I take this Lent to respond to the invitation to live in the unity of the Trinity? How can I nail my old self to the cross?

Prayer: *Lord, I long to live united with you for all eternity. Work in my heart during this Lent to bring the deep conversion that I need to turn away from everything that keeps me separated from you. May my life reveal your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven!*

I believe that we cycle through these 4 steps continuously in our life. That is part of our journey of faith and the process of our spiritual growth. To the extent that we surrender, are obedient, offer loving sacrifice and grow in unity with the Trinity, we shall be taking up our cross and following the Way of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Deacon Richard Labrecque is the Vice President of the WWCCR Board of Directors. He and his wife Sharon live in Sequim, WA. He serves as deacon at Queen of Angels Church in Port Angeles and is also active at St. Joseph Church in Sequim.



greatest act of EXTREME LOVE. Consecrated and made holy, this Bread gives us the ability to allow ourselves to be broken and made whole through our spiritual lives.

In order to allow Christ in, we must make room for him. We must allow ego and our selfish habits to be broken in order to become whole in Christ. This understanding was confirmed for me through Janet Loats' beautiful witness to Jesus making her broken marriage whole again. In this experience of brokenness, we often are enabled to truly receive the gifts.

Let me always remember that prayer, adoration, praise and worship come first – then I can present my day to the Lord as my holy work for him – to help restore his glory, his justice, his peace, his goodness, his kindness, his generosity, his wisdom, his desire for our fear of the Lord, his understanding, his knowledge, his counsel, his piety, his joy, his patience, his love, his humility, his faithfulness, his gentleness, his fortitude, his gifts of healing, his working of miracles, his prophecy, his discerning of spirits and his gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

Each charismatic gift is given for the common good (1 Cor. 12:17). It is not for me. I am to open it, accept it and be ready to use it. We used the

acronym SOAR - Surrender, Open, Ask and Receive - as we reflected on the image of a kite. I must first *SURRENDER* my heart, truly giving my whole heart to God. God has given us his whole heart. We are to give ours to him. In surrendering, I can then *OPEN* my whole heart to my Lord.

My whole heart includes my concerns, hopes and dreams, my fears and misgivings, and my brokenness. It includes my desire to love God more deeply and serve God fully. My contrite and humble heart speaks to the Lord in all of his greatness and glory. My whole heart then *ASKS* the Lord, "Oh Lord, what is your will for me today?"

St. Francis's "Prayer before the Crucifix" can help us begin our day. "Most High and Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart, and give me correct faith, certain hope and perfect love, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out your holy and true command. "

This prayer acknowledges total reliance upon God in order to Surrender, Open, Ask and Receive his gifts. I cannot simply give God my plan and ask him to bless it. I must give him what I believe his plan is for me and ask him to confirm it. Openness to hear God's voice and



confirmation of his plan for our lives requires total surrender, openness of heart and sincere, honest asking of the Lord in prayer. Confirmation can be an

interior voice, an outward sign, a message from another person, a verse of Scripture. The confirmation is followed by a sense of peace .

Once we hear God's will in prayer, the process continues all over again, for we must remember that there are many ways that we can move off course. If we repeat the process every day then we can SOAR like the kite that the Holy Spirit lifts up with the gifts that we have received, God's gifts to us.

Jesus is calling us to live this extreme love for him in our prayer lives, with our families and co-workers, in our faith communities and in the world at large. He has given the gifts and the sacraments to us. We may receive gifts in extraordinary ways and miracles, but more often God acts through Surrender, Openness, Asking and Receiving the gifts in ordinary ways.

I do believe that my kite will be lifted from the ground and be free in Christ to SOAR!!! And when it falls to the ground when I become overly busy or overwhelmed with life (as it will) or gets tangled in the lines of discord and misunderstandings and getting irritated (as it will) I have my sweet Jesus to help me undo the mess and get me SOARING again!!

Brenda Wickersham is a member of the WWCCR Board of Directors. She and her husband David attend St. Michael Parish in Olympia.

2011 WWCCR Women's Retreat - CDs

One Spirit, So Many Gifts, So Little Time!

1 Cor 12:4,7

CDs of each of the talks, testimonies, and homilies from the Women's Retreat are available to be ordered through WWCCR. Please visit our website to download the order form or contact the WWCCR office for more information.

Financial Update

Thank you for supporting and encouraging the ministry of WWCCR – your prayers, donations, volunteer work and messages of affirmation are all ways that you participate in the fulfillment of our Vision & Mission. We depend on hundreds of willing hands and generous hearts each month to continue the vital work we do.



Conduct yourselves... so that...



they may see your



honorable deeds and



glorify God.

1 Peter 2:12

At the Women's Retreat in February, one of the women challenged us all to designate a big portion of our tax refunds for WWCCR. Isn't that a good idea! Please send in a donation this month, using the enclosed yellow envelope.

Again this year, we will post our monthly and year-to-date totals in this Financial Update report each month. Because of the timing of each edition of GLEANINGS, and the delay in finalizing financial reports, the report you see is generally two months old. We invite your questions or comments regarding the finances of WWCCR. Thank you and God bless you!

	January	YTD
Cash balance at the end of previous month	\$26,013.86	
Income all sources	\$14,665.91	\$14,665.91
Expenses	\$19,717.22	\$19,717.22
net income/shortfall	-\$5,051.31	-\$5,051.31



Our Eucharistic Chapel
is available for private prayer any time
that our office is open, 9:30AM until 4:00PM,
Monday through Friday.

OFFICE MASS SCHEDULE:
Wednesday, April 13, 7 PM with Fr. Tony Bawyn

Holy Hour: We would love to have you join us every Friday from 2:30-3:30 pm as we pray for charismatic renewal, the work of WWCCR and your own special intentions.

Intercessory Prayer Network (IPN)

The Intercessory Prayer Network (IPN) is comprised of all who have offered to pray regularly for God's will to be accomplished through the people and programs of WWCCR. We know that prayer changes things!

Please pray for God to bring about His desires through the work of preparation and the events you see in this newsletter and calendar; particularly the events WWCCR is sponsoring, and also...

For growing in holiness through the many opportunities provided during Lent.

For anointing of the Holy Spirit upon all of our priests and parish staff and volunteers for their labors of love in planning Holy Week celebrations.

For the preparations and presenters of the Holy Spirit Seminars that are scheduled between Easter and Pentecost – for the Lord's grace and guidance and for His will to be accomplished through them.

For the regular practical necessities of WWCCR and the Lord's continued provision through His people.

For the auction - that people will respond to the invitation and we will meet our financial goals.

For these prayer groups:

- April 3 Anawim Prayer Group, Kelso
- April 10 Los Angeles de Dios Grupo de Oración (en Español), Lacey
- April 17 St Hubert Prayer Group, Langley
- April 24 St Thomas More Prayer Group, Lynnwood

Next IPN events:
Sunday, April 3, 2011
Sunday, May 1, 2011
2:00 – 4:00 pm

IPN gatherings are usually on the 1st Sunday of the month at the WWCCR office, unless otherwise noted.

Cut this prayer list out and put it in your bible or prayer book to keep these prayer intentions close at hand.

Let us pray that these men, as exhorted by St. John Eudes, would give themselves to Jesus in order to enter the immensity of His great Heart and lose themselves in this abyss of love, charity, mercy, humility, purity, patience, submission and holiness.

Please pray for these priests, deacons and seminarians this month:

- Apr 1 Archbishop J. Peter Sartain
- Apr 2 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
- Apr 3 Bishop Joseph Tyson
- Apr 4 Fr. Jim Northrop
- Apr 5 Fr. Stanislaw Michalek, SCh
- Apr 6 Fr. Francis S. Mien
Dcn. Gene Miller
- Apr 7 Fr. Joseph P. Mitchell
Jeff Moore (seminarian)
- Apr 8 Fr. Gilberto Mora Tapia
Dcn. George Mounce
- Apr 9 Fr. Kevin J. Moran
Dcn. Carl Moyer
- Apr 10 Fr. Gary J. Morelli
Dcn. Pat Moynihan
- Apr 11 Fr. Dominic J. Mtenga, AJ
Dcn. Don Murdy
- Apr 12 Fr. David T. Mulholland
Dcn. Phil Myer
- Apr 13 Fr. Kurt W. Nagel
- Apr 14 Fr. Thomas J. Nathe
- Apr 15 Fr. Matthew Naumes
- Apr 16 Fr. Thong D. Ngo, CSsR
- Apr 17 Fr. Duc C. Nguyen
- Apr 18 Fr. Hung T. Nguyen
Kenneth Nguyen (seminarian)
- Apr 19 Fr. Khanh D. Nguyen
- Apr 20 Fr. Qui-Thac Nguyen
Dcn. Phillip Mau Nguyen
- Apr 21 Fr. Tuan V. Nguyen
- Apr 22 Fr. Ambroise Ntumba
Mbombesha
- Apr 23 Fr. Matthew Oakland
- Apr 24 Fr. Ward B. Oakshott
- Apr 25 Fr. Patrick K. O'Brien
- Apr 26 Fr. Roger G. O'Brien
- Apr 27 Fr. Thomas D. O'Callaghan
- Apr 28 Fr. Patrick O'Hogan III
- Apr 29 Fr. Crispin A. Okoth
- Apr 30 Pope Benedict XVI

Cut this prayer list out and put it in your bible or prayer book to keep these prayer intentions close at hand.

2011 Pentecost Celebration Day



Saturday, June 11, 2011

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tom Curran

St. Michael Church
1512 Pine Ave, Snohomish WA
More information coming soon!



WWCCR Dinner Auction Gala!

An opportunity for fun, good food, a chance to go home with some amazing auction items AND to share a Spark of the Spirit with friends and family who may not know of the work of WWCCR.

Seating is limited for this Gala Event and **pre-registration is required**. Invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers! Contact WWCCR for a registration form to make sure you don't miss this wonderful event! *Visit wwccr.org for more info.*

Inside this April 2011 issue: Theme Article: Our Lenten Journey Pt 2 *page 1*
* From Virginia's Desk *page 2* * Financial Update *page 5* * IPN Prayer Intentions *page 5* *
* Healing Masses, Calendar & Upcoming Events *pages 6-7* * Women's Retreat Testimony *pages 8 & 4*

Soaring with Jesus!

By Brenda Wickersham

The 2011 Women's Retreat was held on the weekend of February 18-20. What happened at the retreat will remain in our hearts for a very long time, and will remain in God's heart forever. The very name of the retreat speaks to our common experience of daily life – "So many gifts, So little time." But we were given the tools to open and share those gifts and better use our time through deeper prayer. This reflection is a gift that I received, opened and want to share with you. It is my thank-you to our dear sweet Jesus who served us a banquet.

All praise and honor and glory to God! In the morning I awoke with this song going through my heart: "Savior, he can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save...Jesus conquered the grave!" On the retreat, Jesus conquered my grave called busy-ness!! Move over email, cell phone, to-do list. God is back on top!!!!

Oh, how God desires to be praised and adored, to be first in our lives. Our retreat revealed the pattern that we can use to live every day for the Lord. As we adored the Blessed Sacrament, my heart was filled with a keen sense that this beautiful sacrament was given to us through the

See Soaring on page 4



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