



GLEANINGS

September 2007

Pondering & Reflecting on the Word

by Jim Murphy

This is an excerpt from a talk given by Jim Murphy at the March 2007 Leaders and Helpers Day.

From Virginia's Desk

by Virginia King
WWCCR Executive Director

"Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith..."
Hebrews 12:2

I mentioned to someone the other day that I am a "recovering perfectionist" and they laughed, but with an understanding laugh. I know I am not alone in this recovery process. I was raised with the adage, "If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well." While I totally agree with this in principle, I found that too often it became an excuse for me to *not do something* at all, simply because I didn't have the time, energy or resources to do it well.

See **Desk** page 3

Inside:

Being Board page 3

WWCCR 30th Anniversary Conference page 4

Share the Good News page 5

Healing Masses page 7

We have a beautiful model for the spiritual life in Mary, our Blessed Mother. In Luke chapter 1:26-56 you can read about some defining events in her life: She is told by an angel, "Hail, favored one! The

Lord is with you." and God reveals to her the incredible news that she will bear a son and name him Jesus. Then the angel tells her that Elizabeth, her kinswoman, is already with child. Mary goes in haste to visit Elizabeth and is greeted with "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit

of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" and then there is that beautiful canticle that begins, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord..." (Luke 1:46-55)

One of the things that Mary did when the angel spoke to her is that she *pondered* the greeting that she received. Later when Jesus was twelve, she *treasured* these things in her heart. One of the qualities of Mary is that she didn't just think about it, she took it into her heart.

In Old Testament language, the heart was far more than just a place of emotion. It was a place where decisions were made, a place of the will and the intellect. The core of the human being is the heart. Mary took the Word into her heart and it influenced her decisions, her thoughts, her actions—everything after that.

Now, in the Old Testament to be a hearer of the Word there are four things that needed to happen. First, you had to physically *hear* the Word of God, and then you had to do as much as possible to *understand* the Word of God. Thirdly, you had to *assent* or *agree* to the word of God. Lastly, you had to *act* on the Word of God. If any of these four elements were missing, then you had not properly *heard* the word of the Lord.

This gives a little insight into how Mary pondered the Word. It had an impact on every part of her being. It affected everything as it soaked down into her.

"Mary took the Word into her heart and it influenced her decisions, her thoughts, her actions—everything after that."

See **Pondering** page 2

Living, Proclaiming, and Nurturing Baptism in the Holy Spirit

I bought a little tree for our yard at home and right after it was planted we were going through a dry spell. The guy I got the tree from told me to make sure that I watered that tree every day. Because I'm so busy, I'd go out and water it for about two minutes and then think that was good enough. Maybe the next day I'd throw a bucket of water on it and thought it was good enough. What a surprise when after three weeks this little tree was completely dead. I went back to the guy I bought it from and said, "I spent thirty dollars for this tree and all I have is a dead stick in my yard." He asked if I watered it. "Sure, I did! Every day I went out there and threw a buck of water on it." Then he told me that when I water it, I have to soak it down for about an hour and a half. When I water it just a little, most of it evaporates off. I have to saturate it so that the soil holds the water and then the roots can get to water. In the same way, I think sometimes I only sprinkle myself with the Word of God, instead of letting it saturate the soil of my person.

There is great benefit in studying the Word of God and we should study it to educate us. But in this case of pondering, we are talking about something different. In pondering the Word of God we are trying to have it affect our lives. Paul says in Romans 10:17 that "faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." You and I have to be the evangelists of our own hearts. We have to be sure that we are saturated by the Word of God every day.

Ways to Ponder the Word

One day you might be reading a passage and all of a sudden one line of it seems to jump off the page at you. You've read three pages of scripture in your bible and nothing's caught your attention and then this one word jumps out at you. Sometimes you think, oh I'll get back to this one word later because I have three more chapters to read. It would be better to stop there, and let that word deeply soak in.

Another way to saturate yourself with the Word of God is that when you get that one-liner that strikes you, just sit with it and quietly repeat it again and again. Keep proclaiming the word deeper and deeper. Some people keep a little journal where they write only about that one passage. They write about what this Word is saying to them, and spend time reflecting on what they are hearing in this Word.

"We have to be sure that we are saturated by the word of God every day."

Other people will take a verse that really touches them and they write it on an index card and tape it to their mirror to reread that Word for the next few weeks. These are some different ways that you can saturate the soil of your heart with the Word.

I suspect that Mary allowed the Word to saturate her heart more than just sprinkle it, which served her well in the days ahead. When Mary went to visit Elizabeth, Elizabeth said to her. "Blessed are you who believed what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45) I believe what the Lord spoke to Mary took such a deep place within her that it gave her something to hold onto during difficult times. Again, that doesn't mean that Mary never had troubles. That doesn't mean that Mary was never discouraged or that everything went her way. But in the most difficult times of her life and in our lives, too, the Word planted in us will be like a solid rock of safety.

Sometimes the Word will be from scripture. Sometimes a word comes through the prophetic. Have you ever had a time where you felt that while someone was praying with you or during your prayer time that the Lord has spoken a word to you? Discern that it came from the Lord first and then hold on to and ponder those kinds of words when you get them. They can also be a source of encouragement in the most difficult times.

Contemplative & Charismatic

As Mary pondered and treasured the Word, I think that Mary was being a contemplative. I really believe that Mary had a contemplative dimension in her life. In the Renewal, we also consider Mary as the first charismatic. It

See [Pondering](#) page 6

September 2007 Volume XXXIII Number 5

WWCCR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jim Dagnon, jamesdagnon@msn.com, 425-453-6073

Mike Daoust, mikedaooust@comcast.net

Tammy Krieger, atzkrieger@msn.com

Gloria Soto, sotoglorious@gmail.com

Penelope Walsh, penelope55@catholicisp.com, 253-460-9469

Executive Director: Virginia King

Liaison to the Archbishop: Dr. Mary Cross

Spiritual Director: Fr. Jim Northrop

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 October issue are due September 1**

Desk continued

I now remind myself that “If a job is worth doing, it’s worth doing – even if you can’t do it perfectly.” I still strive to do everything to the best of my ability, and I think that God expects us to “rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race...” (Heb. 12:1) And we are exhorted to “toil and struggle” as we train ourselves to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives. (1 Tim 4:10) But I also realize that with my many limitations, sometimes I have to settle for “done but imperfect.”

Jesus is our leader and the perfecter of our faith. In realizing that what I do, I do imperfectly, I have a great deal of confidence that Jesus “works all things to good...” (Rom 8:28) Jesus is able to take my inadequate efforts and make them bear supernatural fruit. He gets all the credit!

The reason I bring this up is because I have observed that many people fail to take their place in the Body of Christ because of feelings of inadequacy or limitations. The Body of Christ is suffering because many of the parts of the Body are not fulfilling God’s purpose for them. The Church needs you! You may feel that what you could contribute in terms of time, talent and treasure is too insignificant or too imperfect, and therefore you decide not to contribute at all. The Church needs you!

The time, talent and treasure that you contribute are God’s gifts to you for the very purpose of you making a contribution to the Body of Christ. (Read 1 Cor 12!) If you are elderly and/or infirm, God still has a purpose for your life and the Church

See **Desk** page 7



You can now make your donations to **WWCCR online!**

Go to www.wwccr.org and click on the yellow envelope!

Fanning the Flames of the Holy Spirit

by Jim Dagon, Board of Directors

“Where the Church is, there is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of God is, there is the Church.” - St. Irenaeus

For that simple truth I say “Thank God.” In these troubled times, we need the Church and the Holy Spirit!

The prayer of Pope John XXIII was “**Renew Thy wonders in this our day as by a new Pentecost.**” In the general audience of November 29, 1972 Pope Paul VI said: “**the Church needs an eternal Pentecost.**”

One manifestation of this Pentecost is the Charismatic Renewal. At an international consultation of leaders in the Charismatic Renewal in Malines, Belgium in 1974, held by Cardinal Suenens, the conclusion at that meeting was that “the Charismatic Renewal is of the Church and in the Church, and it is spreading. There is every indication that it will remain a permanent expression of the Church’s life.” More than thirty three years later, the Renewal still is a permanent expression of the Church’s life here in western Washington.

One of the reasons I believe that is true is due to the existence of the Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal (WWCCR). This organization was created in 1977 to support the charismatic movement in western Washington.

For all these years, its supporters and the staff have labored to foster the growth and maturity of prayer groups and to demonstrate that the Renewal is characterized by a great love of the Church, a commitment to its inner order, its sacramental life, and to its teaching authority. As a result over these many years, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has earned a reputation with the Church’s pastoral leadership here in western Washington as a group dedicated to the renewal of the whole of the Catholic Christian life through the Holy Spirit under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

If you are reading this, more than likely you’ve been a supporter of WWCCR and may be asking why I’m writing something that you may already know. Recently while working with a prayer group on a Holy Spirit Seminar, I discovered that many of the prayer group members there had little knowledge about what WWCCR is or what it does.

That’s understandable because it is in individual prayer groups throughout western Washington where the members experience fellowship, sharing of the life of Christ and sharing each others’ joys and sorrows. Sharing fellowship means to deeply love and care for your brothers and sisters. It is in the prayer group that many come to experience a new personal relationship with Jesus as risen and present Lord and Savior through his Spirit.



See **Board** page 7

30th Anniversary WWCCR Conference



Saturday,

November 3, 2007

9:30AM - 9:00PM

at St. Brendan Church

10100 NE 192nd St., Bothell, WA

Come join us!

as we celebrate *30 years* of sharing the Light which has filled us with joy and peace through the gift of the Holy Spirit!

with guest speakers

**Josephine Cachia,
Chuck Hornsby, and
Archbishop Alex Brunett**

Celebrant for Opening Mass



"You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:14, 16



Together, as community, the brightness of this light is stronger. As the light of Christ shines in and through us, together we can be light to the world, piercing the darkness and giving hope to the lost.



For this special 30th Anniversary Conference,

Registration is FREE!

There will be a special prize for the prayer group or community that brings the most people, so please register!

Sponsored by Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal
206-364-2272 • www.wwccr.org

Share the Good News!

Here are a few of the responses received from those who attended recent WWCCR Healing Masses:

After I attended the Healing Mass, I got the results of my abdominal ultrasound. It was normal. I prayed for this to the Lord for so long and *Praise the Lord* for it. I still have to go [to] another ultra-sound tomorrow for the fibroid in my uterus, and I'm still waiting [for] some lab tests for my physical check-up. Please help me pray that the Father in heaven grant that everything would be normal. Thank you for praying for me.

At the Healing Mass, I was praying for my eyes and their adaptation to new lenses. I had had them for several weeks and could only wear them for short periods for reading or driving, then I'd have to go back to the old pair. I was trading two or three times a day. It was a nuisance. I'd been back in for adjustments and another eye test. They could find nothing wrong. The day after the Mass, I was able to wear the new lenses all day with no discomfort! And have been doing so ever since. Praise the Lord!

A woman was in need of a liver transplant. She came to three different Masses for Healing. Her liver is functioning normally, her doctor told her, with some blockage but transplant not needed. At the Healing Mass the priest asked us who in your life is in need of prayer? She prayed for her husband who had not heard from his family for twenty years. The day after the third Healing Mass, he called his brother

Joe and both cried—forgiveness was experienced.

We attended a wonderful Healing Mass. It was a wonderful experience (our first Healing Mass) and we felt very blessed being there. Thanks to all who helped with this Mass and our loving Lord.

I feel as though I was able to be released of the guilt from past sins, even though we all sin in some way every day. The prayer teams afterward were also helpful. Being able to release bad memories also helped, even though those memories come back to haunt me from time to time, but I just keep praying and don't give up hope!

I was asked to be part of the prayer team at a Healing Mass. A couple weeks ago I saw the lady I had prayed

for. She told me her fingers were healed. I praise God because she was going to have her finger cut off, but she is healed, and able to use all her fingers.

“Thank you for praying for me.”

During the time that Father was praying [for me], I had the strong feeling going up and down my body like an elevator—a tingling sensation. I could feel God through him. It was wonderful and very uplifting. I thank God for that experience.

A severe emotional shock left me with a physical sensation of pain and nausea in the center of my body. I asked my prayer team to pray for relief and emotional healing. The next day, the physical pain and nausea were gone. My emotions are also beginning to subside and I am coming to a better place each day. Thanks so much. ■

Are you over 70 years old? Save taxes and help WWCCR at the same time! *Good only through the end of 2007!!!*

Congress passed a bill that gives a unique tax incentive for charitable donations, made by rolling over funds from an IRA account directly to a charitable organization like WWCCR. This law applies only to those who are 70½ or older, who are required to take a certain amount of distribution from your IRA every year. Normally you would have to pay taxes on what you withdraw from your IRA account. But because of this law, through the end of 2007, you can

give those funds to charity without paying taxes. We have already received donations from a couple of individuals who decided to donate the complete balance from their IRA's in order to avoid having to pay any taxes on them in the future.

If you have questions, talk to your financial advisor or give Virginia a call at WWCCR (206-364-2272) to learn how to make this special donation to WWCCR from your IRA account. **Thank you!**

blows peoples minds to say that Mary spoke in tongues. In Acts chapter 2 it said she was in the room and “they all spoke in tongues.” She probably didn’t excuse herself from the room when they started to speak in tongues.

Sometimes I’ve heard people say, “I used to be a charismatic, but now I am a contemplative.” Why do we feel that we have to choose, when both are clearly part of the spiritual life? You and I are trying to live a life in the Spirit. A life in the Spirit is blatantly charismatic and unquestionably contemplative. We really do need both of these dimensions in our lives.

I want to show you why I think that charismatics are really contemplatives and that contemplation is actually a form of the charismatic. One of the dimensions of the charismata is that we have the potential to fall into a place that Paul

warns us about in 1 Corinthians 13:1—that without love, “I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.” In other words, without the love of God, it’s very easy to just rattle off the words. If we are not praising God from the depth of our being, we can be like a clanging cymbal.

In Matthew 6:7, Jesus warns us to be careful that we are not praying like the pagans “who think that they will be heard because of their many words.” We charismatics use a lot of words when we pray and that’s fine when they come from the heart. But what I am saying is that there is a danger in charismatic prayer that without contemplation we could become disconnected from our hearts.

“We must express and boldly proclaim the love of God and keep connected to our heart to be effective.”

Praying in tongues, praying in the Spirit, and praising God can become very mechanical, superficial and, unfortunately in some limited cases, even no longer authentic. We must express and boldly proclaim the love of God and keep connected to our heart to be effective.

On the other hand, at times contemplative prayer can become self-serving without charismatic prayer. You can take these genuine emotions of prayer but begin to make it your own and keep it for yourself and then something that was very beautiful could spoil. However, your time spent in contemplation can also fill you to overflowing so that it can be released out in charismatic praise and ministry.

See *Pondering* page 7

Leaders & Helpers *Retreat*

Called & Committed

Now is the time!
Now is the day!

October 26-28, 2007

at Palisades Retreat, Federal Way

For more information contact WWCCR
206-364-2272 or www.wwccr.org

with speaker
**Jim
Murphy!**

\$180 per person; single occupancy
\$150 per person; double occupancy
\$70 per person; commuter rate

A minimum *non-refundable deposit*
of \$25.00 is required to save your
place for this retreat.

For information about this Retreat contact
WWCCR (206) 364-2272 or info@wwccr.org
or check updates on www.wwccr.org

Donate to WWCCR...

through your **Workplace Giving Campaign**
(e.g. United Way)

Did you know that you can designate your donations for WWCCR at many different workplace giving campaigns, like United Way? Check with your workplace representative to find out if you can designate all or part of your donation for a charity of your choice.

WWCCR is registered with the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. Our EIN is 91-1020122. This may be all the information you need, but if the company requires more, just give us a call at 206-364-2272. Thank you!

Pondering continued

Contemplation and the charismata are two realities of the same thing.

With Mary as our model, let us ponder and treasure the Word of God. May the Word saturate down to our very roots and may our life in the Spirit be a balance of contemplation and charismata. ■

To order the complete talk given by Jim Murphy on CD or cassette, contact WWCCR at 206-364-2272 or info@wwccr.org

Desk continued

needs you! If you are young and going to school or just getting started in the workforce, God still has a purpose for your life and the Body of Christ will suffer if you don't fulfill it. Young or old, wealthy or poor, healthy or sick—whatever your circumstances—there is something that God is asking you to contribute to the Body of Christ.

As you pray and take action, though you are not able to do it perfectly, Jesus will bring it to perfection. May He receive much credit for the good He will accomplish through you! ■

Board continued

Prayer groups are a powerful social force. They are a place where mutual confidence and sharing allow relationships to reach a deep level of friendship.

It is at the prayer meeting people begin to experience a new kind of hunger: hunger for prayer, especially praise, and hunger for the Word of God. They experience a profound sense of the presence of God, which moves them to a deeper faith and an appreciation of all that the Catholic Church offers.

That is the way it should be. Each person's parish and prayer group should be their main place of Christian fellowship.

In the background of all of this is the WWCCR team, fanning the flames of the Holy Spirit, supporting prayer groups in their mission and helping to see that the prayers of Popes John and Paul, are realized.

It is for all these reasons, that I support my local prayer group, my parish and WWCCR with my time, talent and money. WWCCR needs your support to keep the hope of the Church alive! ■

Check out our Spanish radio evangelization program "Jovenes al Frente" on:



Radio Sol
KKMO 1360AM
Saturdays, 8AM

You are invited to attend

Healing Masses

Healing Mass
with Fr. Jerry Bevilaqua
Thursday, September 27; 7:30PM
at St. John Vianney Church
12600 84th Ave. N.E., Kirkland

Healing Masses
with Fr. Michael Barry, ssc
Wednesday, November 14; 7PM
at Holy Innocents Church
26526 NE Cherry Valley RD., Duvall

Thursday, November 15, 7PM
at St. Michael Church
1021 Boundary, Olympia

Friday, November 16; 7:30PM
at St. Anthony Church
416 S. 4th St., Renton



For more information contact WWCCR at (206) 364-2272, info@wwccr.org or check our website at www.wwccr.org



Encounter the Spirit!

Saturday, September 29, 2007
6:45-10:00PM

@ Blessed Sacrament Church,
5041 9th Ave. NE, Seattle

with Guest Speaker: Jan Alkire

Come pray with us

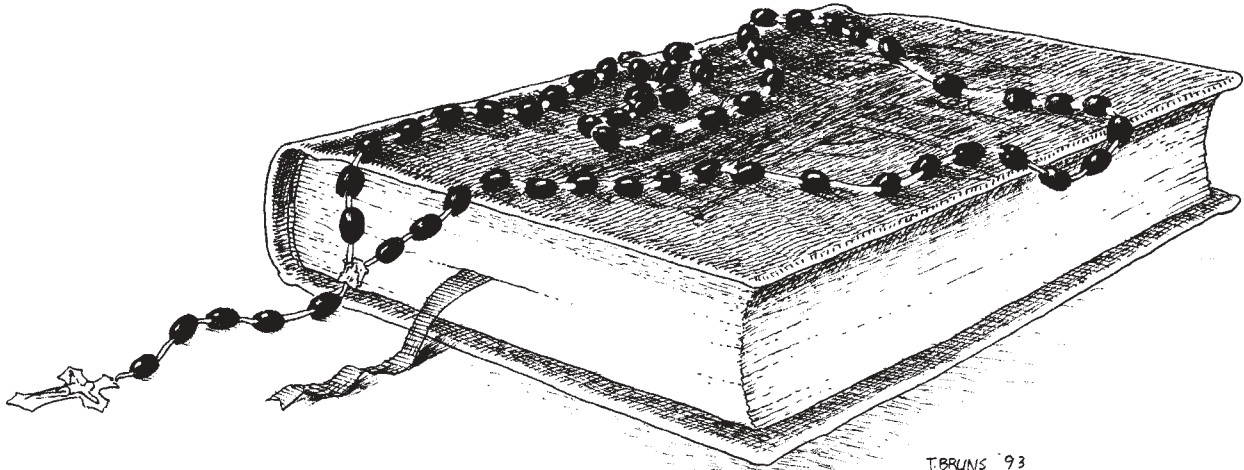
An evening of praise & worship, teaching, testimony, fellowship, and prayer ministry! Bring a friend!

Sponsored by WWCCR.

For information contact WWCCR 206-364-2272 or www.wwccr.org

GLEANINGS

September 2007



T. BRUNS '93

Celebrating 30 Years

Cover from October 1993 issue

Artwork by Tim Bruns

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(206) 364-2272
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