



*Rooted and growing in the light of God's love.*

## THE WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUALITY

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Facebook: The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality

## WINTER - SPRING 2020 AT WVIS

2020 # 1

### Message from our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of WVIS:

Hindsight is 2020. 2020 Vision is perfect vision. As I'm reading Tolle's "A New Earth Awakening to your Life's Purpose, (2006) I'm aware of learning from past mistakes, complex motivations, and I pray for a vision of justice, peace, and happiness for all. Tolle writes about 'aging, death, deeper meaning, wisdom, depth'.... all topics I wrestle with daily in a way I could never before imagine possible.



We are beginning the second decade of this century with a chaotic world, renewed resolutions, dreams and hopes. I look outside at the snow. Each unique, fragile flake seems like an image of each of us alone; yet look at the impact when those flakes work together! We at WVIS hope to create a VISION that reflects on the past, learns from our mistakes, collaborates about our future hopes for our ministerial influence, and then ACTS with strength and purpose to make each day better. One way to do that is to focus our vision on the miracle of the person next to us. Work together!

In our action, we invite each of you reading this message to expand our vision by emailing, calling, or sending your own vision for actions that create a world vision of unity, purpose, meaning, and faithful response to our unique call. I'll collate and post our 'impact' vision statements.

In a homily I recently heard about the child's prayer, "If I should wake before I die." The child apologized for her 'error,' and her father remarked, "Perfect! Isn't life about 'waking up' before we die!" For me, that's a vision for us all - to wake up with 2020 Vision today!

Awaiting your 'vision' statements, and sending my prayers for your intentions,

Sister Carole Riley, CDP, Ph.D.

Executive Director

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**Message from our Board President:**

**Rev. Dr. Michael A. Poke, Sr.**

WVIS Associate Spiritual Director

Pastor, Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church

mpokesr@aol.com



**“2020 Vision”**

To have 2020 vision is said to have normal vision, for so many there is nothing wrong with their eyes yet their vision is impaired and not normal. To have normal vision is to know the truth about the savior and what he requires of thee.

Could it be that one of the reasons that our vision is not normal is because of failure to reflect upon the savior? Could it be the reason that our vision is impaired is due to a conscious or unconscious bias?

A part of the ministry of our Lord was to give sight to the blind? We should know that God is still able to open up blinded eyes. If you’re in need of a touch from the master it only takes a moment.

In Mark’s Gospel blind Bartimaeus is setting by the road side begging and when he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by he began to cry out and say “Jesus thou son of David have mercy on me” and many charged him that he would hold his peace, but he cried the more a great deal. Jesus asked him “what could the Lord do unto thee? And he said: “Lord that I might receive my sight.”

The Good news is God is always passing by and he is able to restore our sight and make us whole even when life’s situations try to shut us down.

Scripture Reflection: **Mark 10:46-52**

**RETREATS – PROGRAMS AT WVIS**

Would you like more information?

Contact:

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Facebook: The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality

If you feel called to make the 30 day Exercises of St. Ignatius in its ten-month format, please contact the director of your choice

Robert Sylvester. ([bsyl@msn.com](mailto:bsyl@msn.com))

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Sister Carole Riley. ([wviscr@aol.com](mailto:wviscr@aol.com))

**Please remember in your prayers  
our deceased associate directors:**

**Sister Donna Marie Beck, CSJ**

**Ardath S. Francke**

**Elizabeth Lambros**

**Ann Nash**

**Sister Barbara Lucas, OSF**

**WEEKLY EVENTS AT  
WVIS**

**Third Monday: Healing Service 6-7**

**Second Tuesday: Merton Chapter 7-9**

**First and Third Tuesday: G.R.A.S.P. 6-8**

**Wednesday: 11<sup>th</sup> Step Contemplative  
Prayer 7 pm**

**Thursdays: Contemplative Prayer 5 pm**

**Thursdays: Women’s AA Group 5:30 pm**

## “Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face” song by Jesse Manibusan 1988



As I enter the final stretch of my certification training in spiritual direction, I am filled with gratitude. I have been graced with directing someone through the 19th Annotation - the Ignatian Retreat in Everyday Life. In meeting with this directee weekly, our vision has shifted. We are both seeing more clearly how God is working, here and now – not only in my directee’s life, but in my own. In addition to thoughts and words, we share, together, the palpable presence of the God who knows us both, and gives us a glimpse of insight into the ocean of love surrounding us in the little room where we meet.

Indeed, this is something I didn’t quite grasp when I began my journey- but each time I meet with a directee, it’s not just talking about God, but inviting God into sharing God’s own Holy Presence, enhancing our vision ever so gently.

Donna K Becher, M.S.  
WVIS Associate Spiritual Director Intern

### The 20/20 Vision



As a satellite of The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality, my ministry in Chapel Hill , North Carolina began when I answered a call to come to Chapel Hill and St. Thomas More parish to offer spiritual direction. Within a year I was asked by our pastor to take on the leadership of the spiritual direction ministry. This position has led to a mutual introduction of WVIS and eight of the nine spiritual directors accepted into the ministry of the parish.

As a satellite, my practice supports WVIS through directees donations and their retreating at Almost Heaven. This will always be the foundation of my ministry. However, the visibility that the leadership role of the ministry has provided the opportunity to work with eight other spiritual directors and introduce them to the offerings of WVIS. Through our ministry, and in addition to the directees we guide, we offer the 19<sup>th</sup> annotation yearly to 20 parishioners, direct 10 new speakers each year to give their faith witness at the annual parish retreat that was redesigned according to the Ignatian dynamic, offer group spiritual direction and bring directees to Almost Heaven. The ministry has also identified and referred candidates to the Associates Program, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation workshop and online course participation. Thus, WVIS is supporting the growth of our ministry through its offerings and the expertise and supervision of the staff. This year our service was awarded with a dedicated room for spiritual direction. The room is named St. Ignatius of Loyola.

I continue to be in awe of, and grateful to , God’s granting me my deepest desire; to build a spiritual direction practice in my tradition. His grace beyond granting that desire, was to connect WVIS to Chapel Hill beyond what I could have ever imagined. My two communities now share a common bond as WVIS has become a common experience that unifies us who come from diverse certification programs. I have been given the blessing to be the bridge.

Cindy Neely  
WVIS Associate Spiritual Director

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation Retreat



At St. Paul's in Mount Lebanon, PA, we have been doing the Ignatian 28 day retreat guided by the 19th annotation. It is an exciting success. There are 14 in the group. They come from a variety of Christian backgrounds - Protestant and Catholic. Each participant had their own relationship with God prior to the retreat, ranging from very strong to weak. I asked each person to come to the retreat with an open mind and heart, and be ready to receive God into their daily lives. We have completed the 22nd moment in Carol Ann Smith's "Moment to Moment" guide, and for me the journey has been filled with surprises, frustrations and new discoveries. All these emotions and more were experienced as each person sought to strengthen their relationship with God.

I decided to offer the retreat to the parish as my own experience in the retreat was liberating and expanded and deepened my own relationship with God. For me the best way to open people to a new vital relationship with God is to have them build their own relationship with God while part of a community. The Ignatian process is a brilliant gift from God. It allows each person to make their own journey and to take what they are able from it. It is not a one size fits all process.

I am an Episcopal priest who came to the priesthood after almost 25 years in the business world. My initial call focused on leading people to respond to God's love by working for social justice in the South Bronx, NY and Bridgeport, CT. I am a trained community organizer. Later on, I felt my call shift toward evangelism which is where the Ignatian retreat has become an important gift from God. In the current group, each participant is listening for and responding to God's call in their own way. Five believe they may be called to ordained priesthood. Four are wrestling with how to use their remaining years in retirement to work with God in the church as lay leaders. The rest are bringing their renewed sense of call to their current situations as a new mom, an art teacher, a therapist, and an accountant. Two are stepping up to be trained as Ignatian 28 day leaders using the 19th annotation. It has been a gift to journey with each of the retreat participants.

Rev. Ted Babcock  
Episcopal Priest  
[tsbabcock@yahoo.com](mailto:tsbabcock@yahoo.com)

### WVIS Spiritual Direction Ministry Goes on the Road Tytianna Burns



Sister Ritamary Schulz continues her monthly ministry in Beckley, Bluefield and Princeton WV in addition to her spiritual direction through ZOOM. Sister is officially 6 months at WVIS. Her cooking and administrative skills provide a measurable alternative to the spiritual ministry. Thank you for your giftedness!

Sister Ritamary Schulz, ASCJ  
WVIS Associate Spiritual Director  
[wvSrRitamary@aol.com](mailto:wvSrRitamary@aol.com)  
304-444-5009

### WVIS's Rural Outreach Grant Update

As you probably know, WVIS has gotten a grant from the Pallottine Foundation. This is a Capacity Building grant, meaning, WVIS will create a new program that will not only provide additional support to the communities in the counties that the Pallottine Sisters support, but also will support WVIS by raising awareness of WVIS and its programs.

The grant process is moving along very well. Twenty Associate Spiritual Directors have agreed to present two workshops each, of 4-6 hours, on "Spirituality and How to Deepen Your Spirituality." A January meeting is scheduled with the ASD's to review the details of the grant, what a 6-hour workshop might look like, and how it can be reduced to a 4-5 hour workshop, depending on each church's needs. The goal is that all presentations will be completed by mid-May. We will keep you updated

Elaine Soper, PhD

WVIS Associate Spiritual Director

### Living the 20/20 Vision



It is with much enthusiasm that I will minister with a new set of lenses. Having served children and families since 2006, I will have an opportunity to accompany students from age 3 to 19 years of age within a school district. Students in elementary, middle school, and high school will have the opportunity to gain Cognitive Behavioral skills using 12 step material like the Promises and Al-Anon slogans, and to express their feelings utilizing therapeutic art exercises. Standing in solidarity with the WVIS philosophy and hospitality, a safe environment will be created so that students will have the opportunity to recognize trouble areas through therapy. Many of the students question their self-worth and confidence. Helping students create 20/20 vision by recognizing their potential and prioritizing their personal goals will create clarity for their life's direction.

My most treasured memories of WVIS are of the hospitality and acceptance I receive. It is only when we feel safe enough to trust, that we allow ourselves to be transformed. The love and acceptance received will be given to others. Creating trust and safety for a new generation of students in a chaotic and unsafe culture is one of the important pieces of peace activism I will do in my lifetime. I stand in solidarity with WVIS as the 20/20 vision moves into focus.

Sr. Linda Hylla, CDP, LCSW

### Flowing Spirit Ministry



In the summer of 2017, we were handed an amazing opportunity: free use of a small room in the Trinity Episcopal Church Parish House to offer spiritual direction. Then pastor Rev. Chip Graves knew WVIS and wanted to be able to offer spiritual direction as a resource for his parishioners and the Huntington community. When he asked us what our ministry was called, the words "Flowing Spirit" emerged. Of course, what else could have brought this about but the movement of the Spirit?

Over the past two years, we have companioned directees as they opened themselves to God's transforming presence in our quiet, private space and in sessions conducted via FaceTime or Zoom. We have offered workshops, retreats, prayer services, and parish enrichment in Huntington, Charleston, and as far away as St. Louis. Our work as faculty with the WVIS Direction training program keeps us fresh and connected.

What is the Spirit's vision for our future? We will be reaching out in 2020 to introduce the gift of spiritual direction to more people in our region, and watching to see what God brings to life.

Liz Deal and Eileen Chwalibog

WVIS Associate Spiritual Director

## News from India



I am ever grateful to our most loving and tender Father and to my Congregation for the opportunity I received to spend three years of my life in Bishop Morrow Personal Care Home in Leechburg, PA and in The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality, Charleston, West Virginia.

I always cherish the love, affection, acceptance, and friendship I enjoyed in USA. In particular living in WVIS I have benefitted much. To mention few; through LOVE came to know more about self, learned to adjust with different life situations, to listen to self and others, to counsel and help with spiritual formation.

The Lord has touched me and I have grown. Yes, Abba Father has been gracious and blessed me abundantly. Though ungrateful and unworthy I am, but He - holding my hand, is walking with me and taking me to beautiful places, allowing me to experience Him through wonderful persons who have come and touched my life. I strongly believe in the words of Prophet Jeremiah (29:11-14): *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes ..., says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you...*

Just to share with few words the plan of God – upon returning from the USA I did three years of Theology at St. Albert College, Ranchi, India. After which I went back to our Generalate and was appointed in the formation house with novices to help out with formation, classes, assisting the novice mistress for four and half years. In May, 2015 I got the responsibility as the provincial councillor and superior of our Provincial House in Kolkata, India and in October 2017 I was elected in the General Chapter one of the councillor (Spirituality & Ongoing formation) and appointed as the superior of the Generalate and Motherhouse Community.

Sister Malabika Mondal, S.M.I.  
 India  
 WVIS Spiritual Direction Associate

THANK YOU, WVIS receives many gifts listed on our 'needs' list from anonymous donors. We would send you a tax statement if you would like to identify yourself by sending Sr. Carole an e mail at [WVIScr@aol.com](mailto:WVIScr@aol.com). We are so grateful for your gifts of a washer, dryer, rice cooker and electric skillet. These are significant gifts!

Deserts, soups or entrees for 8 to freeze	Specialty paper appropriate for retreat reflections
Donation for ZOOM renewal	8x11 mailing envelopes
3 battery operated clocks for direction spaces	Any paper products
Night clear bulbs	Volunteer for tasks close to your heart
	Help with Appalachian Power Bill

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