



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

THE WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUALITY

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NEWS FROM WVIS

2020 #2

Message from our Executive Director

Sister Carole A. Riley, CDP, Ph.D.

Dear WVIS Friends:

During my decades of teaching at Duquesne University, my policy with the students was to share how my personal experiences of life impacted my professional presence. I didn't want students to interpret my 'stress' as a result of their actions.

In these days of beautiful spring flowers and hope, other events close to me are challenging. Sister Pellicane is facing her second surgery since December; the coronavirus is traveling worldwide, with all of us summoned to vigilance. And now we are in the middle of an election year with a call to make our vote count and to empower others to do the same.

More encouraging are these facts: our WVIS satellites are increasing leadership; our ZOOM presence is providing opportunities for learning, community and spiritual growth; several interns are pursuing advanced studies with The Graduate Theological Foundation because WVIS is a PRIME partner. The PRIME status entitles the intern to transfer courses from WVIS.

We've been blessed with the universities in the area entrusting their students to WVIS for externships in the office, landscaping, cooking, and counseling practica. Three grants have been received because of the dedication and visioning of our spiritual direction interns.

Although I'm stretched in my personal life, I'm blessed beyond abundance professionally. My hope is to integrate both 'lives' into one cohesive presence of compassion, trust, and justice.

From a *Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book (Rupp)* I want to share this prayer adapted from p. 18.

First, from the east, a rising good fortune
Second, from the west, a waning of worry
Third, from the north, a cooling of fever
Fourth, from the south, a soothing breeze
Fifth, from the Divine Parent, a secure house
Sixth, from the Spirit, a full breathing
Seventh, from Jesus, a healing touch.,
Provident God, cast out illness and send Shalom on the Seventh day.

May your journey to wholeness be blessed with integration.

Sister Carole A. Riley, CDP, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Message from our Board President

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Poke, Sr.
WVIS Associate Spiritual Director
Pastor, Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church
michael-pokesr@gmail.com



A Vision of Hope

In these times in which we live life has us talking among ourselves and many acknowledge that we are confused, we look around and feel threatened, we look within and are afraid and just when we think that things can't get any worse, they do. Yet, the word of God reminds us that the human situation is not hopeless for we are saved by hope. We are to thank God that no matter how dark it gets a glimmer of hope always seems to break through.

In order for us to catch this vision of hope we have to look in the right place. Too often we look in the wrong places and in the wrong faces. The believer has to know that not only do we live in this world, but we live in Christ Jesus and have another look.

When the outlook is not good; catch the vision of hope and look up above your circumstance, above your situation, above your trial, above your trouble and even above yourself. Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Always hope and never despair

Reflection: Psalm 121, Romans 8:24-28

RETREATS / PROGRAMS AT WVIS

Almost Heaven Retreats 2020 May 21 - July 12

The directed retreat is a silent time in which the retreatant is guided through a prayer experience by a personal spiritual director. The retreatant meets daily with the director to reflect upon their prayer experience. If you have never made a directed retreat, a Friday evening through Sunday morning is a recommended introduction. For more information, call 304.345.0926. (*Note: our meals always include a vegan option.*)

Weekly Programs at WVIS

Third Monday: Healing Service 6 - 7 pm
Second Tuesday: Merton Chapter 7 - 9 pm
First & Third Tuesday: G.R.A.S.P. 6 - 8 pm
Wednesdays: 11th Step Contemplative Prayer 7 pm
Thursdays: Contemplative Prayer 5 pm
Thursdays: Women's AA Group 5:30 pm

Ignatian Exercises

If you feel called to make the 30-day Exercises of St. Ignatius in its 10-month format, please contact the director of your choice:

Robert Sylvester: bsyl@msn.com
Donna Becher: donna.becher@gmail.com
Rev. Meredith Hutchinson: Mercomp@aol.com
Sr. Molly Maloney, OSF: wvissrmolly@aol.com
Margaret Nagum: chesedpeg@gmail.com
Sr. Carole Riley: wviscr@aol.com

Prayer Requests

Please remember in your prayers our deceased associate directors:

Sr. Donna Marie Beck, CSJ
Ardath S. Francke
Elizabeth Lambros
Ann Nash
Sr. Barbara Lucas, OSF

Vision for Life

“The Future” by Richard Belis is a poem that keeps it simple but meaningful.

“The future only to be thought about,
is ahead but not as far as we would hope
means that the future is always thought about
by everyone, and even though it’s in front of you,
usually it’s never as far as you would hope for it to be.
The future is blessed in the sense that it has so many
opportunities for everyone.”

This poem sums up how life is fragile and delicate, as our lives hereafter are actually in the hands of the future, and this is determined by the successes and mistakes that were made in the past, and also those that we are making in the present. The serenity prayer is applicable ... “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change ...”



Virginia Masters
WVIS Associate
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Life

Life
Eternal Life
Kingdom Life
Life with God

Not believing the right stuff
Not doing the right stuff
Not experiencing the right stuff
Not living up to the expectations of others
Not paying up your fire insurance
Not trying harder

Genuine
God-centered
Other-centered

It’s about being like Jesus
HIS YOKE IS EASY, HIS BURDEN IS LIGHT
It’s about imitating the practices of Jesus

Entering into fellowship with the Triune God
Experiencing the loving relationship of Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit
Entering into a loving community of believers

Enjoying a deep, intimate friendship with God
Enjoying fellowship with others around the dining
room table
Enjoying wasting time alone in the silence listening to God
Enjoying the warm embrace of a dear friend
Enjoying the constant presence of God in your life
Enjoying the unrestrained laughter of a child

Life with God
Kingdom Life
Eternal Life
Life

Woo Hoo!!!

Terry Mathias
WVIS Associate Spiritual Director



The Night Before Graduation

‘Twas the night before graduation
And all though my head
Are swimming and swirling
All the books I have read.

Van Kaam’s field of formation,
St. Ignatius ’rules
An approved book and brochure
Supervision gives tools.

Dear colleagues, my cohort
How kind they have been
Though we know from Week One
That we’re not without sin.

Verbatims and themes
I have traced, I have quoted
Dynamics of group
So much more I have noted.

What else can I learn?
Asks my head but my heart
Knows that this night commences
Another new start.

There’s more to take in
And give out, so I sigh.
But I know there are gifts
That God places nearby.

So, I find this is but
Just a pause in my learning,
Because in my heart
There is more I am yearning.

So, I thank all the love
Of those who have shaped me
Most of all I give thanks
To the Spirit and thank Thee.

WVIS is good seed
That has fallen in soil.
It has grown and has grown
With God’s grace in the toil.

Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison
mercomp@aol.com



WVIS Spiritual Direction Ministry Goes on the Road

Sr. Ritamary Schulz, ASCJ, an associate spiritual director at WVIS, is travelling monthly to our southern satellite in Beckley, Princeton and Bluefield. This is an opportunity to provide outreach in the southern part of the state. As a director, it has been a wonderful experience of the spirituality, desire for a deeper relationship with God and sincerity evidenced so beautifully in all I encounter. God's gift of seeing Him in all things, in sharing and in participating in the fullness of personal and parish life are great gifts that are so alive in the individuals in these parishes.

Spiritual direction consists in listening to the joys and sorrows of another's life and seeing where God is leading an individual. It is a graced time where when one opens their heart and God leads and directs the person to a deeper awareness or presence in the daily events in life.

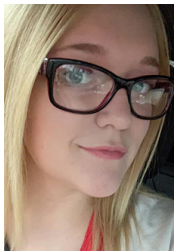
There is an opportunity for a spiritual director to travel also to another parish or parishes if there is interest in people pursuing spiritual direction. If you are interested please contact Sr. Ritamary at wvsrritamary@aol.com.



Sister Ritamary Schulz,
ASCJ
WVIS Associate
Spiritual Director
wvsrritamary@aol.com
304-444-5009

Main Campus Update

Externship from West Virginia Junior College



My name is Ansleigh Fisher, I'm 26-years-old. I'm from East Bank, WV, and I'm currently enrolled at West Virginia Junior College to obtain my Business Administration degree and graduating in June 2020. I am currently serving WVIS as secretary intern. I have a fiancé by the name of Mike, and two beautiful children, a 4-month-old named Michael and a 12-year-old named Mikaela. In my free time I enjoy painting and listening to music. I hope to one day open my own family own restaurant in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I love going out on adventures with my family, such as hiking, going to look at old historic buildings, and visiting scenic views. My main goal in life is to be the best mother and wife that I can be, and to always hold my head high and to never let anyone bring me or my family down.

Job Corp

My name is Amber Nero. I am 21-years-old and from South Carolina. I enjoy playing basketball and helping others any way I can. Currently I am attending Job Corps in Charleston West Virginia taking up a trade in Office Administrative Assistance. I chose this because I am capable of doing this work and I enjoy it. While completing some work on campus I am interning as a secretary for WVIS. I will continue to complete my work at Job corps and in my position of being a secretary here at WVIS until I complete my trade. My plan after I complete Job corps is to serve about 25 years in the Military, and hopefully find a job dealing with being an office assistance as I am now.



Hospitality



WVIS would like to welcome Patty Lane as our new minister of hospitality. Patty is a retired construction worker out of the Laborers Local 1353 here in Charleston, WV. She comes to us from her mountaintop farm in Putman County, WV where she resides with her husband of 20 years and their family of feline rescues. She enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, and antiques. She aspires to one day pursue her life-long dream of becoming a writer and looks forward to bringing her flare of good food and a welcoming atmosphere to our little piece of Almost Heaven West Virginia. Please come and enjoy one of our many spiritual activities, sample the new cuisine, and meet her for yourself! We hope to see you very soon!

Can you help?

WVIS receives many gifts listed on our 'needs' list each month. Thank you. We currently have needs for:

- Desserts, soups or entrees for 8 to freeze
- Donation for ZOOM renewal
- 3 battery operated clocks for direction spaces
- Night clar bulbs
- Specialty paper appropriate for retreat reflections
- 9 x 11 mailing envelopes
- Any paper products
- Help with Appalachian Power bill

Housekeeping

Karen Andruzis has been with The West Virginia Institute of Spirituality for the last 43 years. She is a Nitro High School graduate, class of 1977. When she graduated high school, she began her journey at the old Cenacle Hall. She has worked in all three locations with WVIS. Karen loves everything and everyone here at The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality. She enjoys the welcoming environment as soon as she walks through the door. In her spare time, Karen enjoys going for walks and spending time with her family. She plays the organ at Holy Trinity in Nitro, WV, where she is also an usher for the church. Karen resides in Crosslanes, WV, and has a very close relationship with her sister Joyce, her nephews Steven and Matthew, and her niece Jennifer. She looks forward to the ongoing years here at WVIS.



Hospitality



My name is Midge Park. I live in Charleston, West Virginia with my husband, Harold. We moved here thirty years ago from Newark, Delaware. By profession, I am a hairdresser, having run my own business for the past forty years. On January 3, 2020, I was fortunate to find a part time job at The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality. My duties vary from assisting with registrations for programs, hospitality, assisting in the kitchen and dining room and clerical duties. And anything else that needs to be done! In my spare time, I love to cook for my 8 grandchildren, enjoy gardening and sewing. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with such a great group of people at WVIS. The staff and my co-workers have been very helpful and have welcomed me with open arms.

Finances

At the recommendation of Dean David Wuletich, Lorena D Thomas began her ministry at WVIS in 2010. Lorena is cheerful, capable and a multi-tasker. You will see her in the main office, in the finance office, preparing colorful salads and snacks, doing laundry, keeping the tomato plants healthy and shopping for those 'missing' items. Lorena finds a second home at WVIS and sometimes is mistaken for a Sister. Agree with me that she is our 'sister' in Christ. Congratulations on ten years of service to WVIS.



Secretary



My name is Karen Dyer and I have been coming to WVIS for years as a spiritual direction recipient, volunteer, past and now present staff member. I LOVE THIS PLACE AND THE PEOPLE! I'm a graduate of BridgeValley CTC earning two Associate degrees, both Magna Cum Laude: 1) Human Services & Rehabilitation Studies: Addictions and 2) Paralegal Studies. I have lived on Charleston's West side for 18 years in a home I purchased, only because God put me there. When looking for a house, I was adamant about NOT living on the West side. I looked everywhere that was close to Charleston, but as it turned out, I found my house through a prayer request on the internet. After having two gentlemen check out the house for me, both said, "It's a diamond in the rough." On the day the second gentleman looked at the house with me, as I was working in the afternoon, I heard the Holy Spirit say, "This is it! This is it!" So, I submitted to the Holy Spirit's leading. I also believe it's no coincidence that my house number is 316 (referencing John 3:16-For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.) It is indeed -- ALL ABOUT JESUS!

A Big Thank You!

WVIS would like to give a big thank you to Harry Pennington (40 years), Karen Andruzis (43 years), and Lorena Thomas (10 years) for their hard work and dedication to the Institute of Spirituality!



West Virginia Institute for Spirituality
1601 Virginia Street East
Charleston, WV 25311

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