

Welcome to WCF 2008-2009!

Recap by Sue Kelly-Cochrane

Meeting for the first time this school year on September 11, hopeful women were greeted with this Holy-Spirit-inspired prayer by our Teaching Leader Angie Lake:

“... This New Year Lord, increase our capacity to love you, increase our capacity to know you, increase our capacity to desire to serve you with all joy. Father God, let each one of us be a light and a living river of water flowing through the church, the land and wherever there is a need in the hearts of your people....”

To be used by God for His purposes, to be a light and a living river of water flowing through our land is a simple desire in women’s hearts and a reason many new women come to WCF and return year after year.

Father Mike Barry, our Spiritual Director, encouraged us by saying how thankful and grateful to God he is for WCF. Wow, our ears were tickled by a priest thanking God for us! He continued, that he was thankful for what WCF was doing in the parish, the church and especially among women. Father energized us to embrace the charism of WCF which was given by God to the church.

His teaching on what a charism of the church is truly helped us to understand why we are drawn to WCF. Specifically he taught us:

“A charism belongs to the very nature of the church; they have always been there and will always be there. The word charism comes from the Greek word meaning ‘gift’ and is used in the New Testament 17 times; 16 times by St. Paul and once by St. Peter.” *This is so fitting because our study this year is From the Head to The Heart Series by Angie Lake, Letters of Peter/Paul to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and the Letters of John*

Father Mike quoted St. Peter from 1 Peter 4:10 “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” St. Paul used the word karis or charisma in 3 different ways as:

- 1) A fundamental gift of salvation - Romans 5:13

- 2) Refers to a particular gift given to a particular group like the Israelites received, as the chosen race - Romans 11:29
- 3) Special unique Pauline image of the charismatic gifts given for the building up of the body of Christ, different from personal gifts, so that in all things God may be glorified and not the person.

Since we all have been given a gift(s), do you know what yours is? WCF is one place we can discover our gifts because our very coming signifies that we are open to be used by God. How do you know that WCF is a place where you can discover or use your gift? It's because WCF is defined as a foundational charism by the nature of our Mission Statement:

“Women’s Christian Fellowship is a Prayer/Bible Study, dedicated to glorifying God by bringing women into a more intimate relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior through the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Prayer and praise, meditation, study of the Scriptures and loving fellowship.”

WCF has the 4 elements of a foundational charism as taught by Father Mike:

- 1) It's Holy Spirit led, inspired and moving in the Holy Spirit
- 2) It's centered on Jesus
- 3) It builds up the Body of Christ (we can use our personal gifts within the foundational framework of WCF) It answers a need in the church.
- 4) It's regenerative i.e., the Holy Spirits regenerates it in other areas. We have groups in Phoenix and Texas.

You have chosen to join WCF and within our loving group you will be able to develop your personal relationship with Jesus, to use your gifts and be inspired to go on serving the Lord.

We've also been treated to a mini concert and testimony of the Celebration Singers on Sept. 25. The Celebration Singers, founded 35 years ago, are encouraged to reach out to places where God's light is dim. They had the privilege of singing at Mother Teresa's Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony. Our talented singers were Rudolfina and Dorise who

said, “It has been a pleasure to use our gift to be a blessing to you.” Seven million people worldwide have been touched by their ministry and they need partners who can contribute money to help them continue. WCF contributed to and prayed for their mission. They did indeed bless us with the love of the Lord and their beautiful voices.

On October 2, Mother Trina, the Superior General of the Missionary Servants of the Holy Trinity introduced us to her work towards the propagation of the devotion to the Holy Trinity. An impassioned, Filipina, Mother travels from country to country teaching about the Holy Trinity. She cited John 10:30 and John 14:28 to help teach us about the nature of the Trinity, 3 distinct persons in one God.

“God has healed many people through me,” said Mother. She then shared miraculous photographs, one showing light in the shape of a cross beaming through the Atlantic City pier’s pylons when she was deep in prayer for the gamblers there. Another was a light encircling her head that was shaped like a dove on the boardwalk there. The last photo showed a reflection of Mother kneeling in front of a woman who had been healed through her intercession but instead of seeing Mother’s face, we saw the face of Jesus in the photo!

Mother taught us the five reasons people suffer and took the time to pray for each woman and child at WCF. Another blessing.

Father Mike was back on Oct. 23 to give us the teaching of our weekly lesson, which was then Lesson 6, with emphasis on 2 Peter:2,3; the Danger and Destruction of False Teachers, The Wickedness of False Teachers, The Mockery in the Last Days, The Patience of God and The Day of the Lord. Father instructed us how to recognize false teachers:

- 1) They espouse a teaching that will jeopardize our faith, like “Jesus is just a prophet,”*
- 2) We will know them by their fruits – they won’t last and they will intrude upon the fruit we produce as believers*
- 3) They will bring more attention to a cause and not Jesus. We will know that “Something is wrong here.”*

He urged us to guard against false teachers, to be informed, to pray and attach ourselves with a group that teaches the truth. False teachers often come under the guise of good. Be wary when our prayer life leaves and we fill it with other things. We are not to worry because the Spirit will teach us. We should also embrace the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The year is off to an inspired start full of great teaching by Father Mike, teaching and prayer from Mother Trina and a blessing of beautiful song and powerful witness by two members of the Celebration Singers. Any woman can join us at WCF at any time. Our study is on-going and the Holy Spirit will teach you what you need to know through our study.