

The Gospel News

Legacy of Gratitude

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

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Practice Gratitude



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I often think about what my legacy might be when my time on earth is over. I likely will not have invented anything, cured anything, or risen to any fame. I'm hopeful that my legacy will be steadfastness, service, and a spirit of gratitude that somehow, I can encourage others to adopt. I work hard to try to stay in this mindset and encourage others to feel the same. My spirit of gratitude has been challenged in recent months, however, after the passing of my father unexpectedly in May. He was a spiritual giant to me and many others. There are moments when I forget that I have so much to be thankful for.

It is easy to point out what my father's legacy is—it's peace. His favorite song was "Let There Be Peace on Earth." He worked so hard to keep the peace in the business that he owned and ran for 53+ years, the branch and in our family. It was who he was. Sometimes it would be frustrating for me to watch, especially at our business, where I worked alongside him for the past 32 years. Forget peace—where is the ounce of flesh I wanted after a situation that went wrong?! Yet, he humbly reminded me that none of it was worth it. Peace was always the best choice. That did not make him weak, it made him strong and special.

But where did this spirit of peace, or the desire to obtain it, come from? After reflecting on this for many months since his passing, I believe it came from gratitude. Gratitude to be part of this amazing group of people who love and serve the Lord together, gratitude for all that he had after growing up impoverished, gratitude for the family and love that surrounded him, gratitude for the love he felt from many of you who knew and served with him. Gratitude drove his desire for peace.

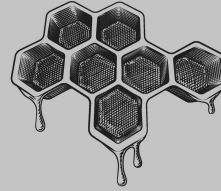
His favorite thing to do was to go to Church, any meeting, and time, and place, he wanted to be there. It was what he lived for, where he belonged. From his early years as an elder when he took apart a printing press to get down our basement stairs so he could reassemble it and then print the Gospel News after working long hours at his business every night, to the many baptisms, blessings, weddings, funerals, and hospital visits—it was all out of gratitude. He was grateful for the opportunity to work with the brothers and sisters in Italy, and made over 35 trips there, grateful to be used as an evangelist in this way. Grateful that growing up and being able to speak only Italian as a child gave him this gift of service later in life. Gratitude brought the desire for peace, and his service was how he showed that gratitude.

I was once told by a medical professional that I was one of the most resilient people she ever met. What does that even mean? I have made it through trials and suffering and risen above, and where did that come from? "Peace that passes understanding" (Philippians 4:7) comes to mind, but also gratitude, I have worked my way out of difficult challenges by PRACTICING GRATITUDE.

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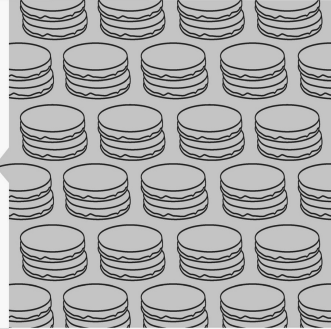


Go thy way,
eat thy bread with joy,
and drink thy wine
with a merry heart;
for God now
accepteth thy works.
Ecclesiastes 9:7

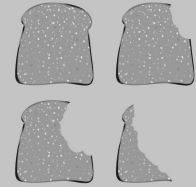


Pleasant words are
as an honeycomb,
sweet to the soul,
and health to the bones..
Proverbs 16:24

And had rained down
manna upon them
to eat, and had
given them of the
corn of heaven.
Psalm 78:24



And when he had
thus spoken, he took bread,
and gave thanks to God in
presence of them all:
and when he had
broken it, he began to eat.
Acts 27:35



Whether therefore
ye eat, or drink,
or whatsoever ye do,
do all to
the glory of God.
I Corinthians 10:31



He asked water,
and she gave him milk;
she brought forth butter
in a lordly dish.
Judges 5:25

And they gave him
a piece of a cake
of figs, and two clusters
of raisins:
and when he had eaten,
his spirit came again
to him:
I Samuel 30:12

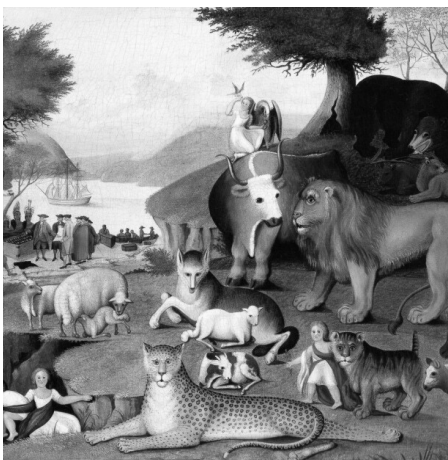


...at mealtime come
thou hither, and eat
of the bread, and dip
thy morsel
in the vinegar...
Ruth 2:14

To make dipping **oil**, mince some fresh **garlic** (it's the only chopping you have to do), then stir it into the **olive oil** with some dried **oregano**, **thyme**, **rosemary**, red **pepper** flakes, and **salt** and **pepper**. Let it sit for a little bit before serving, which gives the **dried herbs** a chance to let off their flavors and the **garlic** time to mellow. You can also add a few spoonfuls of grated Parmesan **cheese** for a salty, nutty bite. Enjoy!

BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck



One hundred and sixty years ago this month on November 26, 1863, the first national Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed at the height of the Civil War by Abraham Lincoln to encourage Americans in every part of the United States to observe a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

I remember seeing a painting called, "The Peaceable Kingdom" by a Quaker named Edward Hicks when I was visiting the Philadelphia Museum of Art. I saw a canvas copy later at a flea market in Rogers, Ohio and bought the painting and read about the meaning of it. The imagery is from Isaiah 11:6, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them..." In the background, Quaker William Penn (founder of the Province of Pennsylvania) is signing a treaty with the native people. His democratic principles served as an inspiration for the Constitution. William Penn regretted the "unkindness and injustice" that Indians had experienced from other Europeans, and wanted Pennsylvania to be different.

(Continued on page 6)



Purpose Statement

- To fulfill the plan of God by bringing salvation through Christ to all people.

Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ, while working to draw Israel to Christ through efforts focused on the indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America

Vision Statement

- Living and worshipping in unity and righteousness will result in the fullness of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, culminating in continuous growth of the Church and fulfillment of Christ's promises concerning His Kingdom on Earth.



"An Expected End"

By Brother Doug Obradovich

Jeremiah 29:11 furthers God's individual life plans, "For I know the thoughts I have (that I think) toward you, sayeth the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end." Does it seem odd for God to clarify His purpose as peaceful versus wrongful? Consider how often He is questioned when challenges confront and doubt creeps in. "How could you let this happen to me, Lord?" "What have I done to deserve this?" "Why is this happening to me?"

Even if these questions simply uncover a belief that God is not being attentive, they are still questioning His intentions. In advance of such skepticism, He tells us that everything we experience is born from His "thoughts of peace." He reminds us to trust His "thoughts" and purposes, and never surrender to emotional suspicions. He adds His glorious arrival point for us, "To provide an expected end." There is your gem! Today it might read, "Wait for it!" This assures your present situation will conclude in a magnificent crescendo. He calls it "expected," but for those tempted with uncertainty, it might feel very unexpected. Keep in mind that everything arrives in God's time, for His

"What seek ye?" – John 1:38

purposes. His "expected end" might also appear when least expected.

Why does He do this? It keeps us dependent upon Him.

After desperately begging for His intervention, and crying for help, God finally answers. His answer is often shockingly more than we risked hoping for. It becomes an unexpected means to an "expected end!" We wonder how He turned it around so quickly, how could everything tie together so beautifully, and how could the timing have been so perfect. We need no explanation. He already vowed to deliver an "expected end!"

His glorious answers leave us more faithful, with more belief in His love, a greater hope for a more robust life, and an unexplainable peace. Often, His answers even restore our very souls. His "expected end" has recovered many from desperation. His answers prove not only that He is mindful, but also show that He had never looked away. Our life situations are never a surprise to God. Neither are His well-thought-out rescues, planned as individualized "expected ends!" Yours is coming. Just wait for it.

Are they strategically tucked within power verses, so we appreciate the joy of uncovering them, like finding buried treasure on a highly populated Caribbean beach? After missing their significance, our eyes suddenly uncover these hidden gems, and detection immediately increases the value of an already beautiful message.

God's free will allows us to follow our hearts haphazardly or purposefully. While His guidance is always available, it can remain undetected unless we wisely request His clarity. Proverbs 16:9 describes, "A man's heart deviseth his way; but the Lord directeth his steps." When we seek God's direction, He points us specifically toward His personalized intention for us. Likewise, when we request God's direction during our studies, He reveals these jewels hidden in plain sight, regardless of past perusals.

(Continued from cover)

So here I go again on my journey to find gratitude and strengthen my legacy despite my challenges, and rise above the sadness. I view it in a 5-step plan, because every goal needs a **good plan!**

STEP 1 Every day I write down something I am thankful for. It can be as simple as a beautiful sunset or my favorite dress. Maybe that is all that I can do at that moment but, at least it brings my mind to being grateful for something.

STEP 2 I go a little deeper, I think about the people in my life and am thankful. When I think of my kids, my husband, my mother and extended family, the brothers and sisters in my branch and around the Church, how can I not feel deeply grateful? This step always gets me focused and ready to go beyond.

STEP 3 I work to remember all the times that God has carried me through. For example—even though I have serious health challenges, the Lord has blessed me. Even though there are struggles, He has given me experiences and shown me that He loves and cares for me. And with this remembrance, I stop complaining about the things that I don't have, even if I am not expressing them out loud, thinking about them is against my goal of being grateful. My dad did not complain about his situation or about what other people were doing or how they were acting. He just chose not to do it. I can make that same choice, too.

STEP 4 I surround myself with grateful moments, through songs of praise, scripture, I ALLOW myself to accept and feel God's love for me and be grateful that I know Him. I say 'allow' because He never takes this love away from me, it is always there like a warm blanket, but I often find myself stubborn and unwilling to accept that love when situations are not what I would want them to be. It seems easy, but oftentimes I get hung up on unresolved issues I am praying for or wondering why, if God loves me, I don't get everything

I want from Him. To achieve step 4 I need to surrender.

STEP 5 Focuses on the biggest picture, Salvation. Ahhhh.... When I get to step 5, I realize nothing else really matters. The pressing concerns of today or the things that rob us of our peace and gratitude are merely blips, and while God STILL helps us through them, in the end they are nothing.

This is a start-and-repeat process, and while we should always be grateful for salvation, sometimes we may need to work up to that and focus on the smaller things before we embrace the reality that none of that even matters because of salvation. It's a process. It takes time and diligence, and sometimes I am only able to achieve step 1 that day, and so I start the process over the next.

Today I can make it to step 5, so here I go: 1. I am grateful for the delicious food at the farmers' market right now, 2. I am grateful for my family, especially my father who loved me and taught me so much about living a grateful life, 3. I am grateful that even in my sorrow I can allow God to work with me, even specifically by giving me the desire to write this article. 4. I listened to a GMBA podcast this morning to set my spirit on the right path for the day, and 5. Most of all, I am grateful for the hope of salvation and the promise that if I "endure to the end"—another one of my father's favorite sayings—I will find peace, love, joy, AND salvation.

Join me in my challenge to live a grateful, thankful, and joyful life through practicing gratitude. Choose a project in November to focus on gratitude: a grateful tree, journal, focus on scripture about praise—do something that takes you away from the drumbeat of day-to-day life.

To help you remember throughout the month, we created a graphic which you can cut out and even put in a frame. Place it where you will be reminded often to focus your love and attention on gratitude. **Turn to the back cover to cut out the graphic.**

PSALMS 118:1

"O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD; FOR HE IS GOOD: BECAUSE HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER."

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Authority in The Church of Jesus Christ Alone

By Brother Josh Gehly

A humble and faithful minister dedicated years of his life preaching the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ in the missionary fields of Belize and Cuba. He met one of the three Nephite disciples face to face and had multiple occurrences of ministering of angels. He and I enjoyed hours together studying the Book of Mormon and discussing the restoration. When traveling to visit his natural family, he went out of his way to stay at my house and fellowship together. Our roots in the restoration tied us intimately together, but he was a Q70 member of another branch of the Restoration Movement and never joined The Church of Jesus Christ. Still, this faithful man loved the Lord and he truly mentored me spiritually.

Two years ago, this spiritual cousin was hospitalized in dire condition. At this time, I found myself pouring my heart out for him in prayer in my home office. The Spirit of the Most High God entered the room and began to direct me. I was given a clear understanding: My friend and spiritual confidant was with the Lord. His suffering was over; the Lord had called him to Paradise.

My prayers now redirected, I began to walk down a path of questioning aloud before the Lord. Let me try and outline my petition. I never questioned our church's authority or accepted any other church's authority. Still, if there was ever a man blessed of God and used by the Lord in our Latter Day dispensation—it was my friend. Out of admiration for the Lord's blessings upon this man's life, I asked God very directly about His blessings upon this man from another church. I wanted understanding. What happened next caught me by complete surprise.

From the Paradise of God Almighty, my dear and beloved friend began to speak to me directly. In the Spirit, I heard his voice distinctly and clearly. He answered every question I had brought before the Lord. He clearly told me how in the flesh he did not fully understand the priesthood authority of Jesus Christ as held by The Church of Jesus Christ alone. He clarified how he now had fullness of understanding on the truth of the Gospel Restored and exhorted me never to compromise on the position of sole authority of The Church of Jesus Christ. He then, for several minutes, counseled me in my callings as a minister and evangelist of THE CHURCH.

Brothers and sisters, we respect all the faithful in Jesus Christ around this world and look forward to the Lord building a highway to ransom His people unto Zion. However, we recognize no other church or person holds authority upon the earth except those ordained under the authority of Jesus Christ, which resides in our Church alone. We need to interact with millions from the Restoration Movement, but must not move away from our founding principles. William Bickerton was necessary and used by God to organize His Church once again in Spirit and truth after error befell the restoration. Our Church is required for the Latter Day glory and no other priesthood is acknowledged in Heaven.

I know this is true. My friend told me so. It was soon confirmed, he died at the time I was praying.

(Continued from page 2)

Because God commanded his people to love others, his colony would treat the native people with honesty, fairness, and peace. Penn treated them as members of sovereign nations, referring to them as “little commonwealths,” and made treaties instead of just taking land. Even though many treaties have come and gone, we still dream of the day of peace and thanksgiving among all people. When the Jaredites landed in Ether 6:12, “...they did land upon the shore of the promised land. And when they had set their feet upon the shores of the promised land they bowed themselves down upon the face of the land, and did humble themselves before the Lord, and did shed tears of joy before

the Lord, because of the multitude of his tender mercies over them.” God commanded that whoso should possess the land should possess it unto the Lord or be swept off if they fell into iniquity.

“Some say that men many long years ago, had tried to build Zion back then; And oh, what a failure in that day and time, so we won’t be foolish like them. But I know the message delivered to me, the angel said, ‘Be of good cheer.’ Hold up your head now, and don’t put it down; The day you have dreamed of is here.” (Be of Good Cheer, The Songs of Zion #97)

B Blessing Bits

BB **Then I Read the Red Letters** - A few years ago I was feeling very discouraged about a situation and even began feeling hopeless. I drove to a nearby park and started praying to the Lord, telling Him about my concerns and feelings. I happened to have my Bible in the car and felt to open it. The very first verse I turned to was Matthew 9:22. My eyes were drawn to the red letter words, “Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.” That was the perfect verse for me to read in that moment! I immediately felt the Spirit of God upon me. I felt such a peace, and I knew God had heard my prayer and was taking care of me. What a wonderful God we serve that He takes the time to reassure us when we need it the most! - Sister Jessica Batson Riopell - Columbus, OH Branch

BB **When Fear Begins to Rise** - Lately I have felt trapped by circumstances in my life and fear has taken over me. This problem has given me anxiety and made me turn to the scriptures. I turned once again to Exodus 14:14 and thought about the first part of the verse: “The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” I prayed that the Lord would take away my fear and for Him to assure

me that He will fight for me even if I don’t see it. It was reassuring for me to pour out my heart to the Lord knowing that He carries all my concerns with such great care; I do matter to Him. He provides me a way for my cry to come before Him and to rest at His feet. The Lord never lets me down and I am so very thankful for whatever He gives me. - Sister Virginia Surprenant - Bell, CA Branch

BB **Let Your Requests Be Made Known** - This past summer, I had the privilege to travel and visit with the saints. Each time I returned home it became more difficult to sleep comfortably in my own bed. It didn’t help that I also regularly occupied my mind with things beyond my control. I prayed about my sleep struggles and then finally asked to be anointed at a Wednesday night meeting in my branch. The night that I was anointed was the most peaceful sleep I’ve ever experienced. Since then, I’ve rarely struggled with sleeping and waking up when I need to. I know it seems small, but the Creator of the universe fights the ‘small’ battles on my behalf daily. Philippians 4:6 - Brother Andrew Tenorio, Edison, NJ Branch

Send us your Blessing Bits by contacting Sister Elizabeth McDonnell at eksanchor@gmail.com. [in approximately 150 words]. Answers to Question of the Month to gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org.



Happy Thanksgiving!

What is your favorite fall food?

"My famous pumpkin pie cheesecake recipe." -Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch

"Pumpkin pie with lots of whipped cream." -Brother George Kovacic, Middle Tennessee Mission

"Chicken vegetable food." -Sister Joann Cotellesse, Pinetop, AZ Branch

"I love all food at all seasons." -Brother Joseph Cotellesse, Pinetop, AZ Branch

"Definitely butternut squash soup or mashed sweet potatoes with cinnamon!" -Sister Charity Lombardo, Metuchen, NJ Branch

"Pumpkin pie with whipped cream." -Sister Anita Znoy, Creekside, MI Branch

"Dutch apple pie!" -Brother Mark Magana, San Diego, CA Branch

"Pumpkin anything!!!" -Sister Karen Ivey, Mesa, AZ Branch

"Turkey dinner." -Sister Lisa Roberts, Roscoe, PA Branch

"Squash soup." -Sister Terri Nath, Monongahela, PA Branch

"Sweet potato pie." -Sister Sharon Sloan, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"Pumpkin pie." -Sister Heather Escobar, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"Caramel apples." -Sister Dianne Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"Homemade pumpkin bread!" -Sister Kim Morle, Atlanta, GA Branch

"Candy corn - either by themselves or mixed with peanuts!" -Sister Christine Martorana, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"Everything pie." -Brother Kevin Murphy, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"Pumpkin pie." -Brother Dean Longrie, San Diego, CA Branch

"All sorts of stuffing!" -Sister Gabriella Strong, Irvine, CA Branch

"Pozole verde." -Sister Ana Benyola, Treasure Coast, FL Branch

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Faith

JOY PEACE GOODNESS
MEEKNESS *Love* TEMPERANCE
LONGSUFFERING GENTLENESS

Faith *By Sister Tonia Monaghan*

I was asked back in February to write this article about faith. I've done a lot of thinking and struggling on this topic for the last 7 months. What can I write that would be different? What can I write that could be new? I don't have a niche for faith. I even started asking myself, "How did you ever begin to have faith anyway?" It goes back to my mother. She was the one who taught me to believe in God.

When I was young, my mother taught me that God was just and good, and I believed. As I grew, she taught me how to pray. I also heard and saw her do it herself. For everything. Trusting Him in all things. My mother made sure my brothers and I went to every meeting: MBA, Sunday School, Conference, and even business meetings! She read the word of God all the time. She gave to the needy. She served in offices. She told me where the lines were drawn. She praised Him through the good and the bad. There wasn't a day that went by that He wasn't a part of. I saw with my own eyes the blessings which come to those who love and serve God, the wonderful things He does for His children who have faith in Him. She taught me to follow God with as much exactness as possible, and to stay away from doubt. Through the faith that she portrayed; I was able to see God work miraculously in our lives.

The 2,000 young stripling soldiers had the same type of mothers.

Alma 57:21 says, "...and I do remember the words which they had said unto me that their mothers had taught them."

Alma 57:26 states, "...because of their exceeding faith in that which they had been taught to believe—that there was a just God, and whosoever did not doubt, that they should be preserved by his marvelous power." And boy, did He do a

marvelous and miraculous thing for those kids!

My husband used to tell me when my girls were little, that my most important job was raising them and teaching them about God. His words were so true. We can't discount in any way the importance of mothers teaching their children to believe in God. Not only in words, but in action. Faith with works for the children to see. In the stripling warriors' story, these boys fought very difficult battles. They were young and untrained in war. Yet, to the astonishment of both armies, not one of them perished. All because their mothers had taught them, they believed, and God worked a mighty miracle because of their faith.

Mothers, we have a heavy calling. Be of good courage. Stand strong in your own faith, that your children will see what God can do. Give your faith works. Serve others. Pray often with your children. Read God's word so you can answer their questions. Continue to point out to them the workings of God in your life. Be at every church meeting/gathering you can. Let your lips sing praises to Him daily. Satan, like a lion, is seeking to destroy. If our faith has no works for our children to see, how will they grow in their own faith and be able to survive the battles they will undoubtedly face in this life? Let us do our best to show them what faith in our mighty God can do.

My children are older now. They have doubts and trials of their own. That doesn't mean I have stopped trying to show them God in every way I can. My hope is they can see that, even though I am very human, I am still trying my best to be a faithful servant, believing in a God who is oh so gracious and kind and loving. One who does marvelous and miraculous things for His children. One who is still in the business of moving mountains and saving lives.

Spirit versus Flesh *By Brother Dean Longrie*

1 In my childhood needs and wants, those of the flesh seemed most important. Having food, drink, a warm place to sleep, a "loving" touch, and of course, dry diapers were most important. I felt what I would now call unconditional love from my parents. This is the condition I think Christ refers to when He said (Matthew 19:14), "Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come to me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

2 It was in my adolescence, nearer puberty, that my understanding and perspective started to noticeably change. Prayer became more than just something I did before getting into bed. The realness of God, Jesus, and the Spirit grew in my mind.

I thought the spirit was my conscience. It was also a time when the fruit of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-23), strife, hatred, lasciviousness, lust, and fornication were seen in my life. The conflict/struggle of flesh versus spirit became an ever-present reality of life. Thank God for the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, faith, and mercy were also evident in my family and friends.

3 Most clearly for me was the example of my maternal grandmother, Eliza McEwen. She always had her Bible on her lap or on the table next to her. She always had a smile and kind words. She and my mother encouraged me to read the scripture. I did read, and learned two lessons that made and continue to make a difference in my struggle with the flesh versus the spirit. The first (Matthew 7:33), is to "seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." The second is when Jesus was tempted

by Satan after fasting for 40 days. Jesus said (Matthew 4:4), "man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." What a powerful statement about our need to search the scripture prayerfully daily!

4 In 2 Timothy 2:15 we are told to study scriptures to show ourselves approved by God, workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Christ warns us to watch and pray that we do not enter into temptation, for the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41).

5 The Lord is quick to forgive when we repent. However, we are warned that "he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:8).

Ladies' Uplift Circle News

The Southeast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Sisters Dianne and Alyssa Maddox

In comparison to other Area Ladies' Circles throughout the Church, the Southeast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle, SEALUC, is relatively young. Established on July 29, 1989, SEALUC has been in existence for just under 33 years. Sister Arline Whitton, the GLUC president at the time, presided over the meeting on that warm day in Fort Pierce, Florida when the SEALUC was established. Our first president was Sister Sharon Staley and the vice president was Sister Susan Moraco.

The years aren't many, but many great things have taken place since that time. There have been numerous retreats, conferences, and gatherings. There are six Circles in the SE Region: Hollywood, Lake Worth, Treasure Coast, Cape Coral,

Forest Hills, and Quincy. Our SEALUC events are well attended by all branches and age groups, and the duties and offices are well distributed throughout the region so that not all of the same people are doing everything.

Sister Eileen Katsaras recognizes the beauty of the local Circles in our area and shares, "The SEALUC allows me to know more sisters to love and pray for." Sister Linda D'Orazio feels blessed by the SEALUC and shares, "When thinking about it, I realize how many friends I have made over the years during SEALUC events. We have shared many of life's lessons and kept friendships strong, even though we are spread apart."

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(Continued from page 9)

Reflecting on the establishment of the SEALUC, Sister Flo Perri shares, "When we organized the SEALUC, it was special to me because we got to meet and greet all the other sisters from our area. The Circle holds a special place in my heart. I have been a member for 68 wonderful years and am blessed that 34 of those have been a part of the SEALUC."

Not only has SEALUC encouraged and supported our seasoned sisters, the SEALUC also includes our youngest through our "Little Ladies Circle" that holds events for the littlest ones in our region. The "Little Ladies Circle" has hosted seminars, mailed newsletters, and started a mentoring program to connect young girls in our area with young women to foster connection and build relationships across the region.

Also, during our conferences, we rotate a "Market Day" fundraising opportunity, which benefits both the local circles and the SEALUC. Sisters in each branch have come together to make baked goods, greeting cards, purses, jewelry, decorations, stickers, and more to fundraise for our Circle. We thank God that we always feel a sweet spirit of unity when we gather. We even have quite a bit of fun! At a recent SEALUC retreat, we had over 100 people in attendance and each branch was asked to perform a skit on the topic of "Seest Thou This Woman." We were so impressed by the creativity of each local circle. The Forest Hills circle presented a rap song called U.G.L.Y.—U Gotta Love Yourself. Their costumes and creativity are still remembered to this day.

God has also blessed our area with experiences reaffirming His guidance and purpose for our efforts. In preparation for a

recent SEALUC conference, the gift of tongues was spoken, followed by the word of the Lord, stating:

Thus saith the Lord this day: Hear now the words of the Father, your Creator. Now speak, speak unto them, saying: My daughters, My daughters, hear now the Word of the Lord as it comes unto you. For I have called you and created you. I have filled your vessel with a capacity of love, a capacity of compassion. Allow this now to reign in your hearts. Allow yourself to be pure, your vessels to be pure, for in this day and time, in this day and time now My spirit will prevail. And yet My vessels must be ready, My vessels must be prepared! And yes I have called and I have chosen, I have selected, I have selected those, those whose hearts are right. And yet you come together now and you seek My direction. And now I come unto you saying prepare yourselves, purge yourselves, cleanse yourselves now for the work is great that is before you! Allow not any unclean thing to come into your lives. Allow yourselves to be examples to those who are younger, unto those who are your children, those of your family members. Be the example now that I have called you to be! For as you do, as you allow My love to shine through you, as you allow My compassion to shine through you, yes now you will see, you will see how I use, how I use My creation and how My spirit pervades, pervades all of My creation. Hear now the Word of the Lord My daughters as I speak unto you now, thus saith the Lord!

This message encapsulates the mission of SEALUC and continues to inspire us as we work together for the Lord. We thank God for His many blessings in the SEALUC.

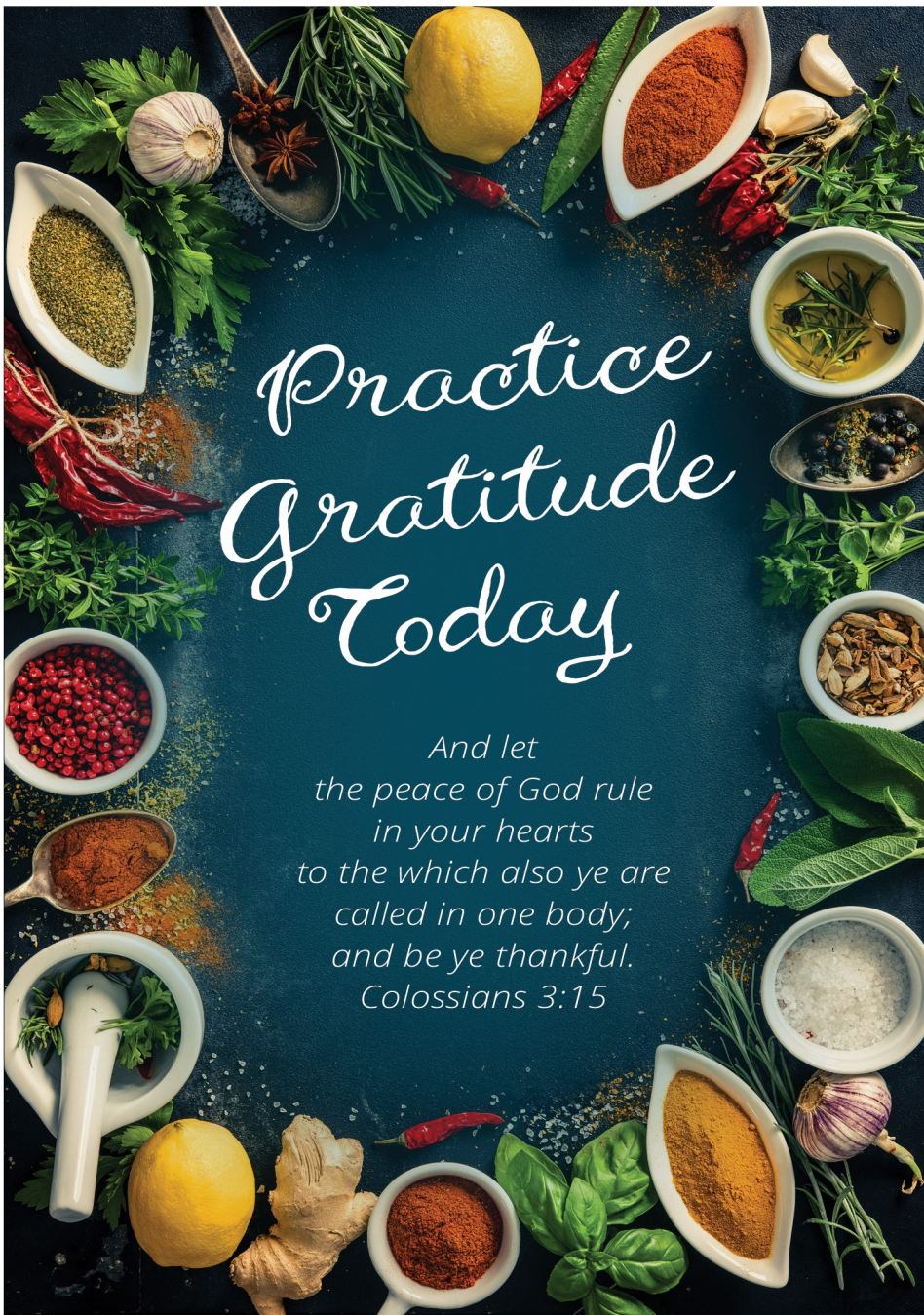


**Scan the QR
code to learn
even more
about the
SEALUC**

Note from the Editor: In the September issue, the article "Bouquet of Blessings" was written by Sister Chris Perri, teacher of the Mount Laurel Circle, not Sister Marty Jumper. We apologize for the error.

**GMBA Conference November 11-12
Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh Airport
Plan to be there!**

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also we are called in one body; and be thankful!" – Colossians 3:15



Practice Gratitude Today

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Colossians 3:15

Cut out this graphic and hang it up in your kitchen to remind yourself to be grateful.



Looking for Blessing Bits? Turn to page 6.



Question for this month:

At what point or moment in Jesus's life would you have liked to be present for- His birth, during one of the great miracles He performed, His resurrection, or any other time? Tell us why.



Answer from last month:

Turn to page 7 for answers.



"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also we are called in one body; and be thankful." – Colossians 3:15