



Our Mission

To serve Christ through His Church by praying for priests and others in Church leadership, to be devoted to the Blessed Sacrament and to promote Adoration of Christ in the Eucharist.

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Women's Day of Recollection

By: Bernadine Ziemba wp

On Saturday, April 26, the Milwaukee/Franklin Community of Widows of Prayer hosted a Day of Recollection for members of Widows of Prayer and women from Clare Meadows Independent Living Facility. Our theme was "Changes in Our Life: A Reflection on the Road to Emmaus." We met in the Franciscan Sisters of St. Clare Chapel in Franklin, Wisconsin. Rev. Kim Studwell O.F.M., our Spiritual Director, was our moderator for the day.

After our Morning Prayer, Fr. Kim began his presentation on "The Road to Emmaus." He made reference to unwelcome change in our lives. As a widow, we all can relate to this. He mentioned just as Jesus met other people, we also must meet Jesus and other people when change occurs. The unbinding presence of Jesus in our lives is not passive, but it should transform us. The people on the Road to Emmaus "did not recognize Jesus until the breaking of the bread." How often do we not recognize the presence of Jesus in our own lives. We fail to feel and know his presence during changes in our lives. Jesus did not come only for the Jewish people, but for Gentiles and other people to follow Him hundreds of years later. In Luke's Gospel, a promise of fulfillment was given. Jesus would shift the focus of his agenda not to what He thinks we want, but to what He knows we need.

In Fr. Kim's second presentation, he expounded on Luke 24: 13-35. He discussed difficult disappointments and encountering the risen Christ to transform our lives. Priests, Levites and Kings play a part in Jesus and our lives. We know Messiah means "the anointed", but Fr. Kim shared that David was anointed twice. To redeem Israel was a fulfillment of vocation for Israel, the chosen people. When change happens in our lives we can become either bitter or free. It's all in our approach to life, our attitude. Jesus came to earth not only to save, us, but to show us how being a community is part of being the Body of Christ.

After Mass, lunch and confession, Fr. Kim was with us for the Exposition and Adoration of

the Blessed Sacrament. He moved his chair to the last row of the chapel so we could concentrate on adoring the Blessed Sacrament while he gave his third presentation on the theme, "Thy will be done." We were in an awe-struck state to try to comprehend God's love for us while adoring His presence. God has kept us alive to help others in ways we will never know. May we appreciate the time God has given to us and live our lives for Him.

After Benediction, we departed with the knowledge that Fr. Kim has shared part of himself with us and part of the mystery of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We are grateful for our faith and for Fr. Kim's wisdom and time.

Holy is Your Name

The main purpose of any religious group in the Church is to mirror for others what the ideal of the Christian Life is all about. This being the case, your own growth in holiness should always be your main concern. What will draw new members to you is not your ministries, your programs, or the benefits of joining your group, but your personal holiness.

You are called to rise above the tumult of day to day affairs and reflect a holy aura of peace and a solid faith in the Lord's action in your life. "Holy Daring", on your part, is what will draw people to you. They must see you as so convinced of the Lord's guidance and protection that you are not afraid, on occasion, to go off the beaten path and make choices that will define your trust in the Lord.

You might say, "It is easier said than done!", but in fact it will never be done'. Religious Life is always in process of happening. It is a holy movement and only those who yearn to be holy should apply.

Fr. John Guimond, O.F.M. Cap.
Spiritual Advisor of Widows of Prayer
Huntington and Fort Wayne, IN

I believe that the widows of prayer are called to a new understanding of life, a spiritual life that can only be known through their commitment to God. As I was reflecting on the widows of prayer and their charisms, several key words came to mind that for me encompasses this wonderful ministry. It is an acronym from the word **WIDOWS** that I believe help define the ministry of the widows of prayer. The acronym (or words formed from the initial letters) are: **Wonder, Inspiration, Dedication, Obedience, Wisdom, and Solidarity.**

Wonder: The state of mind produced by something new, unexpected extraordinary and amazing:

This ministry and GOD

Inspiration: To be motivated by divine influence, to be impelled to some creative effort, or good:

This ministry and GOD

Dedication: To be consecrated to some sacred purpose, or to be wholly devoted to something or someone:

This ministry and GOD

Obedience: Compliant with commands, dutiful, always ready to obey. To be faithful to: *This ministry and GOD*

Wisdom: The Quality of being wise, the ability to make the right use of Knowledge, to have a good perception of the spiritual: *This ministry and GOD*

Solidarity*: A formed union in sentiment or thought and action, to be bound to a common cause:

This ministry and GOD

**Correction: The last issue of the "Widow's Mite" inadvertently missed the word "Solidarity."*

— Fr. Tom Farrell

Mary Queen of Widows

Dearest Mary, our Mother and model, especially our model as a widow, may we as widows look to you for help, consolation, guidance, comfort, and love for one another. You know what it is to be a widow. Your love for Joseph was a genuine love that we all should have for one another.

When Joseph was gone your Son Jesus was there for you. May we reach out to others for help and support. The Holy Spirit was always with you to guide you. May we always remember that the Holy Spirit is with us also to guide us. May we always have the love of Jesus and your love in our hearts. We love you. Help us to pray as you do so that our Church will have more holy priests and ministers. May we be true Widows of Prayer.

Mary, Queen of Widows, pray for us.

— Helen Krueger wp, 2008

(I composed this prayer as I was sitting in the Adoration Chapel. I have never seen a widow's prayer, so with the help of the Holy Spirit I composed this prayer) — Love Helen

Retreat for Widows

(open to all women)

Sept. 5-7, 2008

Theme:

"Brilliant as the Stars"

Presenter:

Fr. John Guimond, O.F.M. Cap.

Cost: \$155.00

To register call:

Mary Reardon, WP: 920/733-2652

or

*Monte Alverno Retreat & Spirituality Center
920/733-8526*

To learn more about the Widows of Prayer, call:

Appleton, WI area
920-733-2652

Franklin & Milwaukee, WI area
414-858-9811

Lake Villa/Chicago, IL area
847-265-0411

Huntington, IN area
260-356-0919

Fort Wayne, IN area
260-422-2960

Menominee, MI area
906-864-1972

or E-mail www.widowsofprayer.org



Thoughts by Gina Vincent wp After Attending a Teen Rally in Marquette, MI ~

My husband and I were married on August 7, 1987, and moved to Marquette, MI in September so he could attend college. Our first son, Jim III, was born in October, 1988. He was baptized here at the Cathedral by Fr. Mike Steber.

I attended mass alone one Sunday at the Cathedral. During the homily the priest said, "If anyone could choose to die right now and go to heaven to raise their hand." No one raised their hand. Later while telling my husband about this, he raised his hand before I could finish the sentence.

Over the years when I would question our differences/problems to my husband, he would say, "We are one".

In 1990 Jim spent four months at Officer Candidate School. We, like other couples being apart, ached for each other. He wrote to me about a homily he had recently heard about the strong desire we all have to be loved and that it was because we desire God's love. I never quite understood that until Fr. Corey talked about that today. Our souls yearn for the blissful love of God. He gave examples of how people might try to find that feeling in drugs, alcohol, etc. They are searching for the blissful love that only God can fill. Jim and I found it in each other, through God.

In the Vocation Mission talk, a priest, nun and married couple spoke. The married couple talked about marriage classes they had to go through and how, at one of the classes they cried because of the deep love between them – God called them together in marriage. The same thing

happened to Jim and I, only Jim had a stronger relationship with God.

The priest and nun spoke of the way they were called to their vocation, by little messages that kept reoccurring over a period of time. I too have had many repetitive thoughts of what I will do now.

During the Bishop's Q & A time he held up his fingers to show about a fourth inch – that is how much time we have on earth compared to heaven. Many years ago when I was

afraid to leave our family and move away, my husband said to me, "What is this life compared to eternity?"

The last Sunday spent with my husband was here in Marquette at the Cathedral on Palm Sunday, 2006. We also visited the crypt. He was always teaching us.

April 13, 2006 my husband was in a helicopter accident and did not survive. It was Holy Thursday. The funeral was held Easter Sunday.

Attending these classes and talks over this weekend has reaffirmed many things for me. As one priest said: "I'm thinking, about thinking about, becoming a priest." Well, I've been thinking about thinking about becoming a Widow of Prayer!!"



Left to right: Mary Reardon wp – General Servant Leader, Gina Vincent wp, Fr. Tom Farrell, Pastor of St. Pius X, Appleton and Germaine Doerfler wp, Formation Director.

NOTE: Gina made her first promises as a Widow of Prayer during 8:30 a.m. mass at St. Pius X on April 13, 2008.

Will You Help?

The Widows of Prayer are growing in number with satellite communities in neighboring states and diocese. Our financial needs are growing as well.

Are you willing to support a new movement in the Church with your financial help? The Widows of Prayer is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Tax Deductible Charity. Cut off the bottom of this sheet, fill out and send along with your check to: Widows of Prayer, Inc., 1021 W. Windtree Dr., Appleton, WI 54914

Widows of Prayer Donation

Name: _____ Address: _____

I am willing to give: \$100 - \$75 - \$50 - \$25 - \$20 - \$10 - Other \$ _____

Any amount given will be greatly appreciated. Remember the Widows of Prayer in your will.

The Domestic Monastery

2001-01-07

By: Fr. Ron Rolheiser

Carlo Carretto, one of the leading spiritual writers of the past half-century, lived for more than a dozen years as a hermit in the Sahara desert. Alone, with only the Blessed Sacrament for company, milking a goat for his food, and translating the bible into the local Bedouin language, he prayed for long hours by himself. Returning to Italy one day to visit his mother, he came to a startling realization: His mother, who for more than thirty years of her life had been so busy raising a family that she scarcely ever had a private minute for herself, was more contemplative than he was.

Carretto, though, was careful to draw the right lesson from this. What this taught was not that there was anything wrong with what he had been doing in living as a hermit. The lesson was rather that there was something wonderfully right about what his mother had been doing all these years as she lived the interrupted life amidst the noise and incessant demands of small children. He had been in a monastery, but so had she.

What is a monastery? A monastery is not so much a place set apart for monks and nuns as it is a place set apart (period). It is also a place to learn the value of powerlessness and a place to learn that time is not ours, but God's.

Our home and our duties can, just like a monastery, teach us those things. John of the Cross once described the inner essence of monasticism in these words: "But they, O my God and my life, will see and experience your mild touch, who withdraw from the world and become mild, bringing the mild into harmony with the mild, thus enabling themselves to experience and enjoy you." What John suggests here is that two elements make for a monastery: withdrawal from the world and bringing oneself into harmony with the mild.

Although he was speaking about the vocation of monastic monks and nuns, who physically withdraw from the world, the principle is equally valid for those of us who cannot go off to monasteries and become monks and nuns. Certain vocations offer the same kind of opportunity for contemplation. They too provide a desert for reflection.

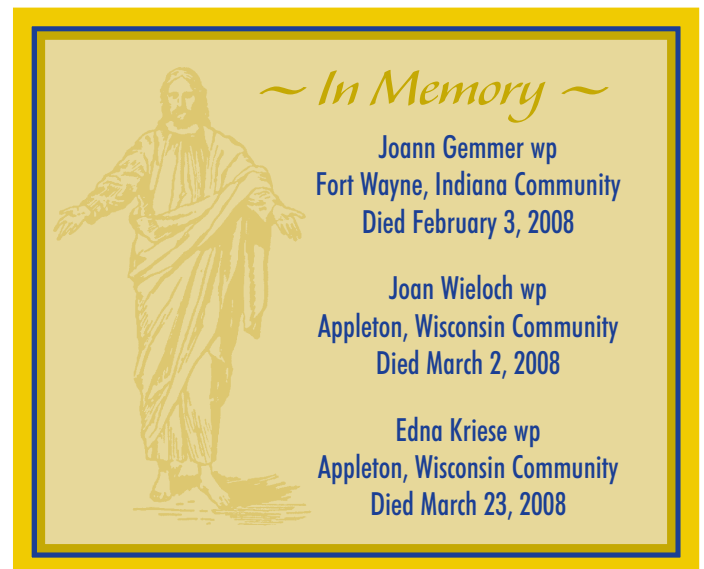
For example, the mother who stays home with small children experiences a very real withdrawal from the world. Her existence is definitely monastic. Her tasks and preoccupations remove her from the centres of power and social importance. And she feels it. Moreover her sustained contact with young children (the mildest of the mild) gives her a privileged opportunity to be in harmony with the mild, that is, to attune herself to the powerlessness rather than to the powerful.

Moreover, the demands of young children also provide her with what St. Bernard, one of the great architects of monasticism, called the "monastic bell". All monasteries have a bell. Bernard, in writing his rules for monasticism, told his monks that whenever the monastic bell rang, they were to drop whatever they were doing and go immediately to the particular activity (prayer, meals, work, study, sleep) to which the bell was summoning them. He was adamant that they respond immediately, stating that if they were writing a letter they were to stop in mid-sentence when the bell rang. The idea in his mind was that when the bell called, it called you to the next task and you were to respond immediately, not because you want to, but because it's time for that task and time isn't your time, it's God's time. For him, the monastic bell was intended as a discipline to stretch the heart by always taking you beyond your own agenda to God's agenda.

Hence, a mother raising children, perhaps in a more privileged way even than a professional contemplative, is forced, almost against her will, to constantly stretch her heart. For years, while raising



Above are members of the Franklin/Milwaukee Community of the Widows of Prayer who made their first or second promises during a Mass Wednesday, April 30, 2008. Left to right are: Helen Krueger wp, Local Servant Leader; Connie Trapp wp, first promises; Mary Ann Suszek wp, second promises; Mary Ann Pajewski wp, second promises; and Ginny Rekoske wp, second promises, along with Fr. Kim Studwell, their Spiritual Advisor.



children, her time is never her own, her own needs have to be kept in second place, and every time she turns around a hand is reaching out and demanding something. She hears the monastic bell many times during the day and she has to drop things in mid-sentence and respond, not because she wants to, but because it's time for that activity and time isn't her time, but God's time. The rest of us experience the monastic bell each morning when our alarm clock rings and we get out of bed and ready ourselves for the day, not because we want to, but because it's time.

The principles of monasticism are time-tested, saint-sanctioned, and altogether-trustworthy. But there are different kinds of monasteries, different ways of putting ourselves into harmony with the mild, and different kinds of monastic bells. Response to duty can be a monastic prayer, a needy hand can be a monastic bell, and working without status and power can constitute a withdrawal into a monastery where God can meet us. The domestic can in fact and in deed, be the monastic.

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