

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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A Vocation of Prayer

One is not used to seeing prayer as a vocation in itself. The sense is that some other ministry must be added for a vocation to be properly genuine. As Widows of Prayer, you must come to terms with the fact that it IS prayer that is your vocation. Everything else you do is the overflow of that central calling.

Every new religious movement comes about because of certain needs that one sees in the world. When there were many lepers, ministry to lepers was the needed vocation. Also needed for many centuries was ministry to the poor. Missionary orders rose from the need to pass on the faith. Ministry of healing rose because of the lack of proper hospitals. Ministry of teaching was also vital, to dissipate ignorance and allow the poor to find a better life. Where the need is, there God inspires his servants to labor.

As we look at our modern world, we find that most of the physical needs are taken care of professionally. So what is the greatest need for

prayers; dedicated, focused prayers. We are called to pray for peace and integrity in our world, for Church leadership, for vocations, for respect for life. As we uncover the new needs, we also uncover our needed vocation.

Prayer is your main ministry, Widows of Prayer. Do not let anyone or anything make you feel that this is a less important ministry than others. This is the most needed ministry of our modern world. Fulfill it well and you will provide much needed healing to our society. As you live your prayer dedication, you will draw forth many graces from the Lord for the world and that without leaving the surroundings you reside in.

You are needed, Widows of Prayer. This is a century for prayer ministry not just to the world but in the world. Know the great dignity of your calling and fulfill that calling with holy joy. Heaven is the reward of those who pray.

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

Retreat for Widows Sept. 11-13, 2009

Theme: *"Living With Expectant Faith"*
(Trusting that God is working in us and thru us)

Presenter: Fr. Roch Niemier, O.F.M.

Cost: \$155.00

To register call: Mary Reardon, WP: 920/733-2652 or
Monte Alverno Retreat & Spirituality Center – 920/733-8526

Fr. Roch will approach the retreat from his Franciscan background.

Possible topics from which he will choose his conferences are the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| – Francis and Sacred Space: | – Mary and Prayer |
| Going deep within one's heart | – Abundance From a Small Portion |
| – St. Clare and Franciscan Prayer | – The Wisdom of Solitude |
| – Transformation into the Image of Christ | – St. Francis and the Experience of God |

**OPEN
TO ALL
WOMEN**

Quotes from "Widows of Prayer"

The following are thoughts from some of the Widows of Prayer

As a member of Widows of Prayer you feel that everyone loves each other without reservation.

A widow of prayer also feels like she could call any other widow of prayer member just to talk about any problems or troubles you are having and she'll just listen without judgments or repeating what you have talked about to anyone.

We will laugh and cry together, enjoy the good and the bad for each other.

As a widow of prayer you feel like you are an important part that loves each other and overlooks each other faults. I enjoy studying and learning more about God and how to live a more religious life with others who feel the same.

I also love the outings we do together; it gives us time to learn the lives of others, some good, and some bad. It leaves you feeling blessed.

We honor Mary as a widow. We try to say the rosary each day.

I've found that any widow of prayer will take her time to listen or take you to any appointment or be with you when you need someone just to talk to or be with you.

I especially loved our meetings with Father John. He always had a different take on verses from the bible. He left each meeting giving us something to ponder about.

I especially enjoy getting together with the Fort Wayne widows of Prayer learning about their lives, who may be sick or in a nursing home, or may have died so we can pray together for each other.

Some of us are fat, some of us are thin, some are tall, some are short, some are rich, some are poor, and we all love each other without reception.

The ultimate goal of each and every widow of prayer is to go directly to heaven when we die.

Addie Bell Ness wp

Choosing the High Road

A retreat for Widows of Prayer with Fr. John Guimond was held May 17-18-19, 2009 at The Capuchin Retreat Center in Washington, Michigan.

Fr. John reminded us how God called St. Paul to spread the word throughout the world and that God called and is calling Widows to Pray for priests, all consecrated religious and the church.

We are all true human beings with our strengths, faults and weaknesses. Somedays we are climbing, as on cloud nine, but it is very easy to slide back to our old ways. It takes effort, hard work, sacrifices and determination. We earn merits and graces by praying and helping others. We offer our sufferings, fastings, prayers and good works for all in need.

We need to know our power, to let go and let the young do the work and we as Widows of Prayer do the Spiritual work as we strive to live holiness.

Mae Leedy wp

*I was so happy when I was a bride
with my handsome husband by my side
I thank God for many happy years
when only our babies shed their tears*

*We enjoyed 22 years together each day
Then he was gone, he passed away
To be a widow was not my choice
But my young life took a different course
The master called and took him home*

*I was still me, I was just alone
The same dear Lord that blessed me as a bride remains
faithful and true at my side
He comforts me as I dry my tears*

*And has cared for me for 90 years
I trusted Him when I was a wife
And know He'll be with me all my life
"You loved me Lord from the start
And I love you with all my heart"*

Mildred Schneider wp

I am thankful for my friend who introduced me to the Widows of Prayer.

My life has been changed very much. I have come closer to my God and appreciate His love for me through daily Mass and adoration.

As a widow of prayer we dedicate our lives to praying for Priests, those studying for the priesthood and religious life. For our families, friends and the world.

We grow spiritually through meeting as a group and having retreats. We receive many graces and blessings.

It's a great feeling to give our life to God. It makes being a Widow more meaningful.

Virginia Gibson wp



Left to right: Kathy Hurly, Fr. John Guimond, O.F.M. Cap., Rosemarie Miller in Formation with Fr. John in Washington, Michigan Capuchin Retreat.



Theresa Driessen of the Appleton Community of Widows of Prayer made third and final promises May 21st at St. Pius X Church.

Standing next to her is Fr. John Doerfler, Vicar General/Chancellor of the Green Bay Diocese who is the Spiritual Advisor of the General Association of Widows of Prayer.



Left to right: Helen Krueger, Local Servant Leader; witnessing the third and final promises of Ginny Rekoske wp, Mary Ann Pajewski wp and Mary Ann Suszek wp, during Mass at Claire Meadows in Franklin, WI on May 13, 2009.



Members of the newest community of Widows of Prayer from Wind Lake, WI, who made first promises during Mass May 13, 2009 at Franklin, WI with Fr. Joachim Studwell presiding.

Left to right: Mary Reardon wp, General Servant Leader, witnessing the first promises of Mary Ellen Morrow wp, Rosaline Banna wp, Arleen Harder wp, Mary Elaine Milbauer wp and Fr. Joachim Studwell O.F.M.



Left to right: Helen Krueger wp, Local Servant Leader; Connie Trapp, making second promises, and Fr. Joachim Studwell O.F.M.

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.



Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament II, Group #2 – Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Standing left to right: Sister Loretta Gorberding, S.N.D. – co-spiritual advisor, Mary Voors wp, Kathryn Creigh, Peg Karst wp, Father Jack Overmeyer, co-spiritual advisor, and Rosemary Bartlett.

Seated: Arlene Furniss wp and Helen Reynolds wp, who made first promises – April 16, 2009.

The above picture is of our group at St. Anne's Retirement Home, and was taken when two of them made their First Promises.

Our situation is a little unusual because we all live under the same roof but each of us has a separate apartment.

Our chapel is in the same building, and though most of us are in our 80's or 90's – we endeavor to gather together at one of our apartments or in the Chapel for morning and evening prayer, and for daily Mass. The Chapel is also open 24/7 for visits.

We are hoping to have a September or October "Day of Reflection", and invite the Fort Wayne #1 group and the Huntington, Indiana group to join us. However, all is just in the planning stages at this time.

Please pray for us that we continue to grow.

Mary Voors wp

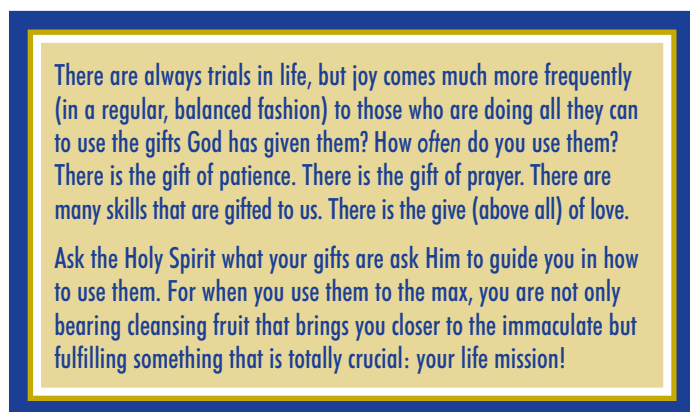
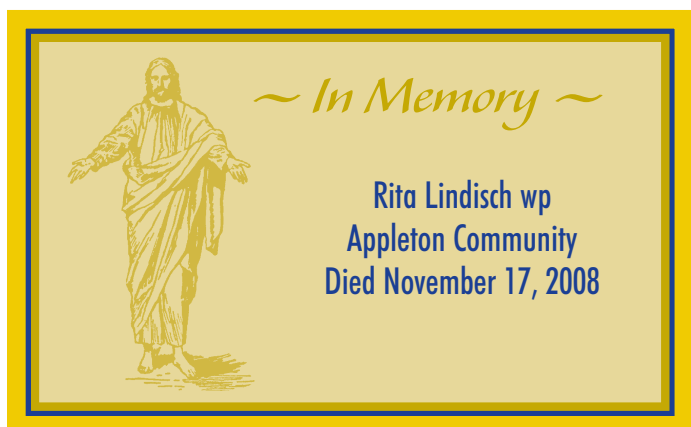


Left to right: Marjorie Meyer wp, Mae Leedy wp, Vera Johnson wp, and Catherine Fitzgerald wp. First Promises – May 12, 2009. Mae Leedy wp, Local Servant Leader of the Huntington, Indiana Community of Widows of Prayer and Catherine Fitzgerald wp, Formation Director of the Community, witness first promises of Marjorie Meyer wp and Vera Johnson wp.



Pictured above are members of the Fort Wayne, Indiana and Huntington, Indiana Widows of Prayer, who attended a retreat given by Fr. John Guimond, O.F.M. Cap. at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Washington, Michigan May 17-19.

Left to right: Mary Ybarra wp, Virginia Gibson wp, Veronica Bartoch wp, Virginia McKenzie wp, behind Virginia Charlett Mann wp, Fr. John Guimond, Mae Leedy wp, Mary Lou Sohn wp, Catherine Fitzgerald wp, Vera Johnson wp in pink beside Mae.



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

Wind Lake, WI area
262-895-3482

Washington, MI area

Fr. John Guimond OFM. Cap.

1-248-651-4826, ext. 219

