



## 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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*“Will God not judge – in favor of his own people – who cry out to Him?” (Lk.18)*

I love the parable of the widow and the just judge in the gospel of Luke as we read:

In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God, nor respected man and in that same town there was a widow who kept coming to him pleading for her rights. For a long time the judge refused to act, but at last he said to himself, Even though I do not fear God, nor respect man, because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it she gets her rights. If I don't, she will keep on coming and wear me out.

Jesus concludes the parable by asking his followers:

Will God not judge in favor of his own people who cry out to Him? I tell you he will judge in their favor and do it quickly!

Often times we overlook the power of prayer. Prayer by definition is *the act of raising one's mind and heart to God*, truly a beautiful way of uniting ourselves to God. Pope Paul VI said: *“To live, it is necessary to pray”*. Without prayer we cannot talk to God, we cannot even hear his voice, if He should desire to partake in a dialogue with us. We must therefore learn to speak to him from our hearts.

Like all Christians, the *“Widows of Prayer”* communicate with God, but their mission is also one that calls them to be faithful in doing so. Their special charism is to pray for priests, but as widows and as members of a family they are also called to pray for their loved ones. I don't think we see the importance of prayer today as we had in the past. It is almost as if we have forgotten the importance of staying connected to our Lord in this beautiful way of communicating but we instead find ourselves preoccupying much of our time with things that are of little value. When we omit prayer, we omit that which is the very sustainer that defines who we are as a Christian people. The *“Widows of Prayer”* not only pray daily but they come together on

a regular basis as a community of faith to ask God to watch over everyone around them. We read in the scriptures:

*Where two or more are gathered together in my name there I am in their midst”*

In a day when so many people fail to find the time for prayer, the *“Widows of Prayer”* have become those women who not only make time for prayer, but live their lives as a prayer. For them prayer becomes – *the very core of their being*.

I thank the *“Widows of Prayer”* for their faithfulness to God and their continual outpouring of love to Him. I especially thank them for their prayers during this Year for Priests as they are truly a gift to the presbyterate, not only during a time of persecution of the Church, but during a time when a great strain is placed on the priests with the many demands put on them due to the shortage of vocations.

It is said that: *all priests cooperate in the saving plan of God*. I believe with all my heart the *“Widows of Prayer”* *act as an anchor in God's saving plan*. May God bless this beautiful ministry to the Church, and may the *“Widows of Prayer”* grow in great numbers for their faithfulness in petitioning heaven on our behalf.

Fr. Thomas J. Farrell,  
General Spiritual Advisor  
for the Widows of Prayer

## You end up with!!!

Happiness keeps you SWEET,  
Trials keep you STRONG,  
Sorrows keep you HUMAN,  
Failures keep you HUMBLE,  
Success keeps you GLOWING,  
But – – – Only Friends – – –  
**Keep you GOING!!!**

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## Quotes from "Widows of Prayer"

*The following are thoughts from some of the Widows of Prayer*

### My Story

Since my husband passed away seven years ago I vowed that I would not marry again. I even thought of joining the convent but I think that God had other plans for me.

I went with two of my friends on a bus trip to EWTN. When we were in Hanceville, Alabama at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament I went to confession and I told the priest that I was a widow and thinking of joining the convent. He told me about the Widows of Prayer in Appleton, WI. After about a month or so after we came home I saw an ad in the Catholic Herald about Fr. Corapi speaking at St. Pius church in Appleton. I called to see if I could get some tickets but I guess I called too late for they were all filled up. I asked the lady that I was talking to if she knew about the Widows of Prayer. The lady I was talking to was Mary Reardon the founder of Widows of Prayer. She sent me some information.

After I read the material I thought maybe this is for me. The more I thought about it the more at peace I felt. I didn't want to keep going up to Appleton for there wasn't a group in Milwaukee. I kept calling Mary to see if someone had started a group in Milwaukee. She always said no. So finally I said that I guess God is calling me to start a group in Milwaukee. I am not a leader or speaker but with the help of the Holy Spirit we have eight who have made promises and a few in formation.

We meet Wednesdays at 3:00 with rosary for priests, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Communion Services & Liturgy of the Hours. Once a month we have Mass in our Chapel at Clare Meadows 7700 S. 51st Street, Franklin, WI, between Dexal & Rawson. Also the first Saturday of the month we get together at the Franciscan Convent by the lake for 9:00 Mass & spend an hour in their Adoration Chapel. The Widows of Prayer have been a blessing to me & wonderful support.

*Helen Krueger, Franklin, Milwaukee area*

On August 12th the Franklin/Milwaukee Widows of Prayer celebrated the Eucharist with Auxilliary Bishop Richard Sklba. It was the feast of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, a wife, mother, widow, and founder of 85 communities. The bishop shared how appropriate it was for some of us to make our promises on this day. It's been part of the history of the church for widows to lead a prayerful life and to go out and serve. As Widows of Prayer we carry on this tradition today. In his homily he combined messages from the two readings of the day: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Matthew 18:15-20. Even though Moses journeyed for many years, he never reached the Promised Land. Bishop told us it's the journey and trust that's important. Moses gave his mission to another, Joshua. The journey continues for all of us. The gospel tells us that when someone commits a wrong, we are to approach the person about it. If that doesn't work, bring one or two others with us so that the fact may be witnessed, then go to the church. The gospel passage ends with the familiar words, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." We felt privileged to celebrate the Eucharist with Bishop Sklba and learn from his teaching.

*Bernadine Ziemba wp*

### How Bishop Sklba Came to be With us at the Franklin-Milwaukee Group

Bishop Sklba heard about the "Widows of Prayer" and called me {Helen Krueger} on the phone. He wanted to know more about the "Widows of Prayer". I told him about as much as I could.

At Christmas time I sent him a Christmas card and the "Widows Mite". He sent me a thank you note and said that he would like to meet with the Widows of Prayer and celebrate the Eucharist with us. I sent him a reply saying that we would be thrilled to have him come. I asked him if he could come in May not realizing that it was a busy time for him with confirmations and Archbishop Dolan leaving the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. So I asked him to come sometime in July or Aug. He replied that the only date he had open was Aug. 12th at 3:00 which is the feast day of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, a widow. I called him and said that would be perfect.

Three women of the Franklin-Milwaukee group were due for their final promises and one of the women from Wind Lake group was ready to make her first promise.

It was quite a blessing that Bishop Sklba was the celebrant for the Mass in which these widows made their promises. It was a beautiful occasion to have Bishop Sklba as presider.

Bishop Sklba enjoyed being with us, and said he would like to celebrate the Eucharist with us again and maybe do a morning of reflection.

It was nice that Bishop Sklba got to meet with Mary Reardon wp, the founder of "Widows of Prayer, who came from Appleton.

We ended with snacks in the community room of Clare Meadows.

*Helen Krueger wp*



Left to right: Alice Scheele wp, Bernadine Ziemba wp, Helen Krueger wp, Mary Reardon wp, Bishop Richard Sklba, Jo Anne Aird wp, Jo Anne Kern wp, Mary Ellen Morrow wp. Jo Anne Arid made first promises. Alice Scheele, Bernadine Ziemba and Jo Anne Kern made third and final promises.

## Quotes from "Widows of Prayer"

*The following are thoughts from some of the Widows of Prayer*

For me the Widows of Prayer has been a gift of God, in which I can live out the rest of my life. I've enjoyed meeting all of the ladies from the different groups at Appleton while on retreat in September, as well as the group of Widows from Huntington. And, of course, enjoy immensely my own group from Fort Wayne. We are all "in the same boat" as widows, so have lots in common. Our former officers did a tremendous job as leaders, and now, the new leaders are trying to do the same. My prayer life gets better day by day.

May God bless us all in our endeavor to do his will, especially in the hours we spend praying.

*Ginny McKenzie wp*

## Retreat for Widows

*(open to all women)*

**Sept. 10-12, 2010**

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

**Cost: \$160.00**

**To register call:**

**Mary Reardon, WP: 920/733-2652 or  
Monte Alverno Retreat & Spirituality Center  
920/733-8526**

**More information on the theme of the retreat will be in the Spring/Summer Issue of the "Widow's Mite."**

## Orchard of the Lord

There was a saying in the past that declared; "Bloom where you are planted," I would like to reverse that by saying, "Be planted where you can best bloom." Sometimes we lack spiritual ambition. We settle for the less demanding spiritual grounds. It is not surprising that we then do not blossom properly, that the fruits of our life are few, whereas they could be many more. The soil we choose is first of all the Church, then our parish and our family. But if we have more spiritual ambition and want to be as fruitful as we could be, then we must choose a richer ground such as a lay organization or a religious order. There are many choices such as the Secular Franciscans, the Legion of Mary, or Prayer Groups. And for those who are widows, there are the Widows of Prayer.

We often hear the statement, "I can be holy where I am." That's true but, without moral support, we are more likely to coast than to race to holiness. There is a parable in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 13:6-9) about a fig tree that is refusing to (or is unable to) bear fruit, and the owner of the orchard threatens to cut it down because it is receiving nourishment but giving nothing back in return. And the gardener (an image of Jesus) offers to work extra hard to bring the tree to

fruitfulness. The reason for Jesus' concern is that the tree is planted in very fertile soil and ought to be able to bear fruit. The meaning for us is that the more rich the soil we choose to grow in, the more likely we will be to bear fruit because Jesus, to whom we have dedicated our life, will give us all the extra help we need.

Any time we choose to belong to a special group in the Church, we are planting ourselves in a richer ground of grace. And we will receive many special graces from the Lord in return.

The Lord has provided widows with a rich orchard, the Widows of Prayer, in which they can grow more and more fruitful in good works and in merits. It is important to be aware that, if we dedicate ourselves more deeply to the service of the Lord, He will give us more and more graces by which to grow to holiness. We can grow anywhere, of course, but we grow best in the rich soil of a vocation.

Fr. John Guimond, OFM, Cap.  
Spiritual Advisor  
Washington, MI – Widows of Prayer

## 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.





*On Sept. 12, 2009, while on retreat, the above widows made promises during the Mass:*

*Top row left to right: Mary Troutner wp, First Promises; Bev Poquette wp, First Promises; Gina Vincent wp, Second Promises.*

*Bottom photo: Mary Ann Seidl wp, Second Promises.*



*On Saturday, October 31st, Bishop Richard Sklba gave a morning of reflection to Widows of Prayer. Those who attended from Franklin/Milwaukee, Wind Lake, WI and Lindenhurst, Illinois and Chicago are pictured above:*

*Left to right: Back row – Jo Anne Kern wp, Bishop Sklba, Mary Ann Pajewski wp, Connie Trapp wp, and Ginny Rekaske wp.*

*Second row – Mary Ann Suszek wp, Alice Scheele wp, Bernadine Ziemba wp, Helen Krueger wp, Rose Banna wp.*

*Third row – Cecilia Viloria-Skrzypek wp, and Joanne Aird.*



## Prayer for Priests

O Almighty Eternal God, look upon the face of Thy son, and for love of Him Who is the eternal High-priest, have pity on Thy priests. Remember, O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is in them by the imposition of the Bishop's hands. Keep them close to Thee, lest the enemy prevail against them, so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

O Jesus, I pray for Thy faithful and fervent priests; for Thy unfaithful and tepid priests; for Thy priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Thy tempted priests; for Thy lonely and desolate priests; for Thy young priests; for Thy dying priests; for the souls of Thy priests in purgatory.

But above all I commend to Thee the priests dearest to me; the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Thy Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me or helped me and encouraged me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, particularly

O Jesus, keep them all, close to Thy heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity, Amen.

Richard Cardinal Cushing  
Archbishop of Boston

### 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



or website

[www.widowsofprayer.org](http://www.widowsofprayer.org)