



## 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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## Jesus gave Himself to us; isn't it time we give ourselves to Him?

The Feast of Corpus Christi, (the Body of Christ) is also known as the solemn Public Feast of the Eucharist. Pope Benedict refers to the Eucharist as "The treasure of the Church, the precious heritage that her Lord has left to her".

Our Holy Father also emphasizes that the Church preserves the Eucharist with the greatest care, celebrating it daily in Holy Mass, adoring it in churches and chapels, administering it to the sick, and as viaticum to those who are on their last journey. The Eucharist is our Lord Jesus, who gives Himself for the life of the world. (Jn 6:51) In every time and place, Jesus wants to meet human beings and bring them to the life of God. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves how often do we give time in prayer to Jesus so that we too can be drawn closer to God.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta spoke of the Love of Jesus in the most Blessed sacrament: When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now. She also stated: I beg the Blessed Mother to touch the hearts of parish priests that they may have perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in their parishes, and that it may spread throughout the entire world. The time you spend with Jesus is the best time you will spend on earth.

John Paul II said: The Best, the most effective and surest way of bringing lasting peace on earth is through the great power of Eucharistic Adoration.

Sign up for a weekly hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our Chapel of Divine Mercy, or another Perpetual Adoration Chapel that may be closer to you. How fortunate we are to have this chapel on our premises. It is an opportunity to receive so many graces. We need to ask God to help us to transform our lives, to grow in our faith and to live as a people of the gospels.

I invite everyone to please sign up for one hour a week to spend in prayer. I guarantee you, it will change your life, it will change your family's life, it will change your heart. Spend a weekly hour with Jesus and you will never be the same.

During his agony in the garden Jesus asked his apostles, could you not pray one hour with me? Jesus gave himself to us, isn't it time we give ourselves to him?

*Sincerely in Our Eucharistic Lord,  
Father Tom Farrell  
General Spiritual Advisor, Widows of Prayer*

## Make Holy Noise

In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asks the question, "Who do you say that I am?" That may be a question that the Widows of Prayer need to ask themselves also, "Who do people say that you are?" Do you stand out as women who can be noticed? Do you have an identity in the local Catholic Community? How well are you making yourselves known? Any movement, especially a religious order, can thrive only if they become readily recognizable as to their work and their charism. The Franciscans were known for their love of poverty and their respect for nature. The Dominicans were outstanding preachers. The Capuchins were ascetical and worked with plague victims. Many orders of religious women were teachers and nurses and so on.

The question for you is; how are you identified as Widows of Prayer? What is your religious charism? And how is it evident to the people at large? How do you publicize your religious identity? Are people prompt to recognize you as Widows of Prayers? Can they appreciate your usefulness to the Church?

To succeed, every religious movement needs publicity. People need to experience your ministry and its usefulness to them. Prayer is your central ministry. How is that seen as enriching to people? You have a potential for great good in the Church and you need to make that obvious. When someone asks you for prayer, you need to respond as a community, giving people the assurance that they will be remembered in your community prayers in a certain way and for a length of time that the people know they can count on. It is important to be seen as a group at Liturgical functions. Numbers impress people. When you write to a bishop or any other officials, it would be well if, after your signature, you add "The Widows of Prayer of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan." That enumeration would let people know that you are to be taken seriously.

You are spiritual healers for the people of the Church and that has to be seen as important to everyone. Publicize your manner of service to the people. Let them know of what devotions you will perform on their behalf. You might conduct vigils of prayer in church in times of national or local need and invite people to join you. Visit the sick in hospitals, possibly as teams of two. Make holy noise! Let people know you are around. You offer a treasury of grace; let people know what it is and how they can benefit from it. Who do people say that you are? Make sure, first of all, that they have reasons to discuss your group in a positive way. Make holy noise! Make sure people are aware and grateful that you are around.

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

The Widows of Prayer in the Fort Wayne-Huntington area were truly blessed to have our recently installed Bishop Kevin Rhoades celebrate Mass for us on April 7th.

In his homily Bishop Rhoades reminded us that the Order of Widows was active in the early centuries of the Church. He was happy that it is being revived and he greatly encouraged us in our vocation saying "You are a gift to the Church in our day." He thanked us for the support that all in Church ministry receive through our prayers. He urged us to continue to pray especially of our seminarians and more quality vocations in our diocese.

We thank Bishop Rhoades for taking time out of his busy schedule to celebrate Mass for us and to give us his blessing.

In meditating today on the joy that filled my heart that day, I was moved to thank God anew for calling us to be Widows of Prayer. We are just ordinary

people, leading ordinary lives, yet we have been called to be "a gift to the Church", as the Bishop said. Why us, oh Lord? These Scripture verses came to mind: (1) "I know well the plans I have for you, says the Lord, to give you a future full of hope. When you call Me, when you go to pray to Me, I will listen to you." Jeremiah Ch. 29:11-12. (2) "Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in My hand." Jeremiah Ch. 18:6.

I felt that the Lord was telling us that Widows of Prayer is the path to holiness He has chosen for us. As we are faithful to our charism, the Lord will mold us into the holy vessel He can use to help strengthen His Church.

Thank you Lord, for our foundress Mary Reardon, who listened to the Spirit in 1994 when Widows of Prayer was founded, and for her continuing enlightened leadership.

*Dorothy Ward wp*

## BISHOP CELEBRATES MASS WITH WIDOWS OF PRAYER



KAY COZAD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass with over 35 members of the Widows of Prayer group on April 7 at St. Mary's Parish in downtown Fort Wayne. The Widows of Prayer is a prayer apostolate comprised of Catholic widows who are committed to the ministry of prayer for priests and others in Church leadership, as well as compassionate support of other widows in need. In his homily the bishop thanked the women for their prayers saying, "Yours is a noble and holy mission. ... Your apostolate of prayer is a blessing to us. It gives the Church the power and energy to do what the Apostles did." Following Mass the bishop joined the women who came from prayer communities in Fort Wayne, Saint Anne and Huntington, for refreshments and fellowship at a reception held in St. Mary's Parish hall.

## Widows of Prayer Retreat with Fr. John Guimond OFM, Cap. Capuchin Retreat, Washington, MI • Theme: "Heart to Heart"

Our life is part of a parable, how God speaks to us and the way we hear him. We must listen to our heart in order to grow in holiness; how we grow and what is our treasure. We must be thankful and positive. We must share our faith and minister to each other and others in our community.

We accept God as his children. He helps us find our own strengths, our potential and our self worth. Seeing God how he is, not like we think He is. True poverty is to look at God, not myself.

Mary is Mother to anyone in a vocation as she puts us in service. Mary is Mother to all the Church and all humanity. Mary had no tears as Jesus was carrying his cross, so not drawing any attention from her son. All she asks is "Comfort my son."

*Mary Leedy wp*



Left to right: Kathy Hurley wp made first promises, Fr. John Guimond, Vera Johnson wp made second promises.



Left to right: Back row – Jean Ann Buzzard, Virginia Gibson wp, Kathy Hurley wp, Fr. John Guimond OFM, Cap., Bertha Rosen wp, Catherine Fitzgerald wp, Dorothy Ward wp

Front row – Virginia McKenzie wp, Addie Ness wp, Vera Johnson wp, Mae Leedy wp

## New Member of the Appleton Community of Widows of Prayer

Loretta Johannes wp made first promises on May 13th at St. Pius X Church.

Congratulations Loretta!



Loretta Johannes wp – 1st promises, May 13, 2010, St. Pius X. Fr. Tom Farrell, General Spiritual Advisor, Widows of Prayer

## The Oldest and Choicest

Even when you are old, I will be the same. Even when your hair has turned gray, I will take care of you. Isaiah 46:4

Growing old can be dangerous. The trail is treacherous and the pitfalls are many. One is wise to be prepared. You know it's coming. It's not like God kept the process a secret. It's not like you are blazing a

trail as you grow older. It's not as if no one has ever done it before. Look around you. You have ample opportunity to prepare and ample case studies to consider. If growing old catches you by surprise, don't blame God. He gave you plenty of warning. He also gave you plenty of advice.

Your last chapters can be your best. Your final song can be your greatest. It could be that all of your life has prepared you for a grand exit. God's oldest have always been among his choicest.

*He Still Moves Stones*



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## Quotes from "Widows of Prayer"

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

### Luminous Mysteries for Priests

#### The Baptism of Jesus

Let us pray for all priests and other religious who administer the sacrament of Baptism, especially those in the missionary fields who have to travel sometimes for miles.

We pray that the Holy Spirit, who descends on a person when they are Baptized, will protect them.

#### The Wedding Feast of Cana

Let us pray for all priests especially those in countries where the priests have to hide in order to say Mass and change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray that the priests won't ever have to shed their blood.

#### The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Let us pray for all priests and religious as they teach and bring us closer to God.

#### The Transfiguration

Jesus took James, John and Peter up a high mountain and was transfigured before their eyes.

Let us pray for priests and all Catholics, for as we get closer to God we are transfigured spiritually.

The Institution of the Holy Eucharist

Let us pray for all priests that they realize that it is God who is working through them.

*composed by Lucy Johnson*

My favorite prayer is the rosary because as I say it I can meditate on the mysteries and Jesus' life. I know I don't always get the answers I think I should and I get frustrated but forgive me for being persistent. There are so many things to pray for; health, poverty, wars to name a few, plus our own personal issues. Please do not reject me because I do not sometimes listen to you. There is so much in life that is beyond my ability to work through or understand.

*Cecelia Baker wp*

As I sit here in the late afternoon, saying some of my daily prayers, I was just thinking to myself... how fortunate I am, to be able to pray on Wednesday mornings with my women friends, the Widows of Prayers. Now, no one but God could have put these thoughts in my mind at this particular time. Is it because I did not get my prayers finished at church today, after Mass, or what? All I know is that it just "popped into my head".

I am more grateful than ever for my joining this wonderful group. Thank you God! Especially for walking me through this life as a Widow of Prayer.

*Ginny McKenzie wp*

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*"God doesn't call the qualified  
He qualifies the called."*

*"Coincidence is when  
God chooses to be anonymous."*

*Many folks want to serve God  
but only as advisors.*

*Some people are kind, polite and sweet  
spirited until you try to sit in their pews.*

## Retreat for Widows

*(open to all women)*

**Sept. 10-12, 2010**

### Theme:

*"God as Mystery and our Response of Faith"*

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

**Suggested Offering: \$160.00**

### To register call:

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

## 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

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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 June 2nd, the above Widows of Prayer made promises during a 2pm mass at St. Clare Church in Wind Lake, WI.

Arlene, Mary Elaine, Rosaline and Mary Ellen from Wind Lake made second promises. Connie Trapp from the Franklin/Milwaukee Community made third and final promises.

Helen Krueger wp is the Local Servant Leader of the Franklin/Milwaukee Community.

Fr. Paul Kelly, SCJ, is the Spiritual Advisor of the Wind Lake Community.

Left to right: Arleen Harder wp, Mary Elaine Milbauer wp, Rosaline Banna wp, Fr. Paul Kelly, SCJ, Mary Ellen Morrow wp, Connie Trapp wp, Helen Krueger wp.



The above is a picture taken after Mass during a Day of Recollection given by Fr. Jack Overmeyer, the spiritual Advisor of the Fort Wayne IL Community of Widows of Prayer along with Sr. Loretta Borgerding, SND.

Left to right: Sr. Loretta Borgerding, SND, Mary Voors wp, Servant Leader of the Fort Wayne IL Community, Kathryn Creigh wp who made first promises and Fr. Jack Overmeyer.



~ In Memory ~

Beverly Long wp – March 24, 2010

May Yurralde wp – March 17, 2010

Evelina Mabini (Candidate) – February 10, 2010

## Are You Praying for Your Priest?

We are coming close to the end of the "Year for Priests". We all know the blessing that our priest is for us. He was there for our Baptism, at our first confession, first communion, confirmation and marriage. He is there when we are ill to administer the sacrament of the sick, no matter what time of the day or night. He is there to listen if we have a problem and need his advice. He is there to celebrate mass and give us the living Jesus in the Eucharist. And, the list goes on.

So — what can we do for him? We should pray for him daily, Because, without him we would have none of the above. We are called to pray for priests, for their sanctification and for perseverance for them. As recipients of so many graces from God through the hands of a priest, it is only right that these wonderful men be remembered in our prayers.

We need to examine our conscience about our attitudes about priests. This will help us to identify where we can improve our responses to priests. Some questions we can ask ourselves: Am I critical over the splinter in his eye, when week after week I confess to him the beam in my own? Do I defend him against his enemies? Am I willing to sacrifice my time for his sake as He does for mine? Do I remember to thank him for his hard work and praise him for a job well done? Often priests don't have the advantage of seeing the fruits of their work. Often they meet with resistance and frustration. Many times we only approach our priest when we need help. We forget to thank him because our own emotions are up front.

Thank your priest today for a job well done. Thank him for the little things people don't notice. Thank him for his time, his energy and prayers and for bringing Jesus to us. Just thank him for being a priest!

Mary Reardon wp  
General Servant Leader  
Widows of Prayer

### 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  
260-749-2726

Menominee, MI area  
906-864-1972

Wind Lake, WI area  
262-895-3482

Washington, MI area

Fr. John Guimond OFM. Cap.  
248-651-4826



or website

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