

The Widow's Mite

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Issue No. 16

Spring/Summer 2011

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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.

Who Are the "Widows of Prayer?"

Are you a widow and wondering how to fill the time that was spent doing the things you and your husband enjoyed?

Join the "Widows of Prayer", who have made it their life's commitment to pray for priests and other Catholic Church leaders, as well as family and the world's concerns.

The "Widows of Prayer" is an Association of the Faithful, under the guidance of the Bishop, with satellite communities in various locations. They acquire a deepening spirituality through mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meeting as a group, retreats and other specified times together.

A "Widow of Prayer" realizes that life does not end with the death of her husband, but can be a new beginning when answering the Call of God.

Call 920/733-2652 to learn more about the "Widows of Prayer".

How do I Get in Touch?

One way to "get in touch" is by attending our prayer gatherings. People from specific areas gather regularly for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or to celebrate Mass together for priests and others in Church leadership and for those being called by God to religious life. You might also attend the annual retreat as well as other scheduled events.

On the back page of this newsletter you will find phone numbers of people in specific areas who will be able to let you know where and when you might meet with them or their specific group to learn more about Widows of Prayer, the gatherings that are part of our group's time together, or how to start a new group in your area.



Left to right back row: Helen Krueger wp, Servant Leader of the Franklin/Milwaukee Community of Widows of Prayer; Arleen Harder wp, Mary Ellen Morrow wp, Servant Leader of the Wind Lake Community, Rosaline Banna wp, and Fr. Paul Kelly, Spiritual Advisor of the Wind Lake Community. Front row left to right: Marie Kopydlowski wp and Mary Elaine Milbauer.

During a 2 p.m. mass May 11th at St. Clare's Church in Wind Lake four Widows of Prayer

made final promises: Arleen Harder wp, Mary Ellen Morrow wp, Rosaline Banna wp, Mary Elaine Milbauer wp. Marie Kopydlowski wp made 1st promises.



Left to right: Paolo Alioto wp, Fr. Mark Brandl, Spiritual Advisor of the Franklin/Milwaukee community of Widows of Prayer, Helen Krueger wp, the Servant Leader of the Milwaukee/Franklin Community of Widows of Prayer.

During mass on May 18th Paolo Alioto wp made her first promises as a Widow of Prayer.



Left to right: Kathy Hurley wp, Vera Johnson wp, Fr. John Guimond OFM Cap., Mae Leedy wp, Servant Leader of the Huntington, IN Community of Widows of Prayer and Mary Reardon wp, the General Servant Leader of Widows of Prayer.

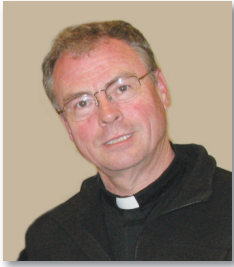
Fr. John Guimond OFM Cap., presented a retreat for widows (open to all women) at the Capuchin Retreat in Washington, Michigan from May 22-24.

During mass on May 24th Kathy Hurley wp made 2nd promises and Vera Johnson made 3rd and final promises.

Day of Recollection at St. Anne's Home for the Elderly

A Day of Recollection was held April 1st at St. Anne's Home for the Elderly in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mary Voors wp is the Servant Leader of a group of Widows of Prayer at St. Anne's who meet daily to pray for priests and our other Church leaders, our seminarians and those contemplating religious life.

The day began with the Liturgy of the Hours, followed by Mass in the chapel with Fr. Jack Overmeyer. Kathryn Creigh wp made her 2nd promises as a Widow of Prayer during the mass. Lunch was served in the dining room, followed by a presentation by Sr. Loretta, SND. Quiet Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed — then First Friday Devotions and Benediction. A presentation was then given by Fr. William Peil in the Garden Room near the chapel. A blessed Day ended with happy farewells.



Am I Prepared to Meet Our Lord?

As most people approach their later years in life, their main objective is to determine how they can best prepare themselves for the coming of Our Lord. Questions arise such as: What can I do to please our Lord? What does He expect of me? How can I love Him and my neighbor more? What must I do to get to heaven?

I recently came across the book *“Live Well Die Holy”* (The Art of being a Saint Now and Forever) by Saint Robert Bellarmine. He lived in the years 1542 – 1621. Robert led a life of self-denial and poverty – in order to devote himself to the things of heaven. His writings convey a spirit of detachment, a love of neighbor, a great knowledge of scripture, and his ability to apply this knowledge to everyday life.

Like Robert Bellarmine, people who are close to the Lord love Our Lord very deeply and always seek ways to please Him. I believe Robert’s book beautifully

convey to us ways to become closer to God. His general rule is: *“He who lives well – will die well.”* He warns us however, that he who has never lived a good life – cannot die a good death (unless by the grace of God he has a final act of repentance.)

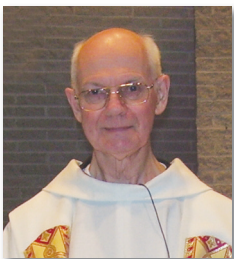
He mentions several other ways for people to grow closer to our Lord as he emphasizes: Learn to die to the world – persevere in Faith, Hope and Charity – be ever ready to Meet Christ – remain detached from worldly possessions – be sober, just and pious – pray fervently – practice fasting – give generously of the gifts God has given you – be faithful to your baptism promises – use the gifts you have received in confirmation – receive the Eucharist worthily – confess your sins with true contrition – revere the Sacred – love and honor your spouse and children – guard your senses against sin – and be resolved to die well.

He reminds us we need to *“know the difference between momentary things and everlasting things, between things of no importance and things of great importance.”* He emphasizes that we should examine the lives of those who have gone before us.

He also quotes 2nd Cor. 4:17 *“...we should not look at the things that are seen, but on the things that are not seen, for the things that are seen are temporal but the things that are not seen are eternal.”* One may never feel they are ready to die, so we need to make ourselves ready – for we do not know the day nor the hour.

Memorial weekend we lost a very faithful parishioner who had a great love for our Lord, and a great devotion to Our Lady. Everyone knew “Paz” at St. Pius. She had just attended mass and received our Lord in Holy Communion. She was walking to her car, when a car went into reverse and she was hit in the parking lot. She began to pray her rosary, I was able to anoint her while a doctor and medics assisted her. She died later at the hospital. **She lived well, and she died Holy.** May God grant us that same grace as we know not the day or the Hour. Pray for your family members and for yourselves that everyone stays close to God and devotes themselves to the things of heaven.

Fr. Tom Farrell
General Spiritual Advisor,
Widows of Prayer



Too Old?

One of the things that is often repeated in Scripture is “Do not be afraid!” The problem with fear is that it limits our abilities. One of the tools we possess for growing in confidence is looking at our past and reflecting on all the things God has seen us through. We are survivors; that’s one of the graces God has given us. And the greater our faith in the Lord becomes, the more confidently we can count on our tools for survival.

Our generous response to God in our life is dependent on the confidence we have in his protection and guidance. The greater our trust, the more generous the Lord will be to us; the more we will receive his help, and the more we will be able to take on new things with confidence.

In fact, the older we are, the more expertise we accumulate and the more

wisdom we build up. So when we are tempted to say we are too old to take on new things, we diminish our ability to live a fruitful and satisfying life.

Old age can be like Winter, a time when we close doors and windows and find excuses for staying home comfortably. So, the time when we have the most wisdom and expertise can also be the time when we are least inclined to use these.

Jesus said that we are the salt, able to bring joy and hope to people. Fear can rob us of our ability to keep this ‘salt’ fresh. When we allow it to get stale because we feel too tired and afraid to reach out to others, we have become salt that has lost its flavor. What are the symptoms of this? We become critical and complaining and suspicious of others. We are no longer salt to others when all we talk about is our aches and pains, something apt to happen when we narrow our world too much out of self-protectiveness, lack of energy, and unwillingness to accept new challenges. The fact is, some people are still young at eighty and some are already old at

sixty. What a waste of our talents if we fall into the second category!

God has given us an abundance of ability and will protect us all the more, the more generously we give back to Him. Don’t get old; get busy! One of my dreams is to work to the end and die on my coffee break. Use all the gifts God has given you. Don’t be afraid; trust! Get out there and live!

Fr. John Guimond, OFM Cap.

Words Worth Noting

Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.

— Pope John Paul II

Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.

— St. Gregory

What is Perpetual Adoration?

Why do we do it – and what are the fruits of Perpetual Adoration.

Perpetual Adoration is a constant vigil of prayer adoring Jesus truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Simply stated, it gives each of us an opportunity to grow spiritually closer to God—to deepen our relationship with Jesus. As Pope John Paul II said “Our essential commitment in life is to grow spiritually in the climate of the Holy Eucharist.”

There are several reasons why a Holy Hour should be done in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament: First, it is an extension of the Eucharist in which Christ gives himself as our Living Bread for our spiritual life. Second, it is a place without distractions. Third, in Holy Communion your soul is permeated with God like wax melted into wax.

A Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament is not a project to be accomplished but an exercise of love. You can read a spiritual book, say the rosary, or... just rest with the Lord.

The important thing to realize is that you need time – apart from the Mass, where you experience God’s personal care for you alone.

Just bring the REAL YOU before God – This means yourself with all your concerns, hurts and strengths. You must ask God to heal you of your faults and help you to use your strengths for His goodness.

St. John Vianney asked a man who sat quietly for hours before the Blessed Sacrament what he was doing. The man replied “I look at Him and He looks at me, and we are happy together.”

While St. Faustina was praying before the Blessed Sacrament, Our Lord revealed Himself to her. There were red and white rays of Divine Light emanating from His

Sacred Heart, radiating thru the entire Chapel. Whenever someone came into the Chapel for a visit, these Divine Rays would go forth from Jesus and encircle the whole world. Jesus explained that, each person coming before Him in the Blessed Sacrament represents all humanity and that every man, woman and child on the face of the earth experiences a new effect on his goodness, graces, love and mercy for each Holy Hour made in his Divine Presence.

This is the point: Because Jesus loves you infinitely, unlimited is the joy you bring to His Sacred Heart when you come to spend an hour with him in the Blessed Sacrament.

Not long before Archbishop Fulton Sheen died in 1979 a TV reporter asked him an important question. “Your Excellency,” he said, “You have inspired millions. Who inspired you? Was it the Pope?”

“Actually, Archbishop Sheen replied, it was an 11-yr old girl.”

In the late 1940’s he explained, when the Communists took over China, at one particular Catholic mission they locked up the priest in his rectory. Through the window the pastor saw a soldier enter the church, force open the tabernacle and strew the Blessed Sacrament across the floor. The priest knew exactly how many Hosts were there: 32.

A young girl, unnoticed by the soldier, was praying in the church when he committed the sacrilege. She hid herself, and that night she returned to spend an hour in prayer. Then she went into the sanctuary, knelt and bent to the floor to take one of the Hosts on her tongue.

Each night the girl came back, spending an hour in prayer and then receiving Our Lord by picking up a Sacred Host with her tongue. On the 32nd night, after consuming the final host, she accidentally made a noise that caught a soldier’s attention. He pursued her, caught her and struck her cruelly with his rifle.

The priest was awakened by the noise, but it was too late. Through his window he watched as the young girl died.

This moving story inspired Archbishop Sheen to keep faithfully a promise he had made to God: to spend one hour each day with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. According to the Archbishop’s own

testimony, the effectiveness of his remarkable ministry came from that daily Holy Hour.

The heroic Holy Hour of that young girl can inspire us still: to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as often as possible; to receive Him reverently in Holy Communion and to offer our lives to Him daily in love.

Many conversions are happening in the parishes where there is Perpetual Adoration. “Just as the soft rays of the sun melt ice, so the sweet rays of grace of the Son of God melt icy hearts.”

Recently a Bishop reported that vocations to religious life in his diocese tripled since he started Perpetual Adoration.

Many of our adorers who spend an hour each week before the Blessed Sacrament in our Chapel of Divine Mercy speak of the comfort and blessings this has brought into their life and the lives of their loved ones.

Won’t you please take this opportunity to do something beautiful for God and sign up to be a prayer partner on an hour that will fit your weekly schedule in a Perpetual Adoration chapel near you.

Mary Reardon wp

Widows Retreat (open to all women) **Sept. 9-11, 2011**

Theme:

*“Where is God in all of this?
How do we find God in the midst of war,
a jittery economy, sickness, tragedy,
strained and broken relationships and
disappointments?” The retreat talks will
offer a unique Franciscan suggestion for
how this question might be answered.*

Cost: \$160.00

To register for this retreat:

**Call Mary Reardon wp:
920 / 733-2652**

—or—

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

Bishop Sheen says...

**When someone dies, people
say “What did they leave?!”**

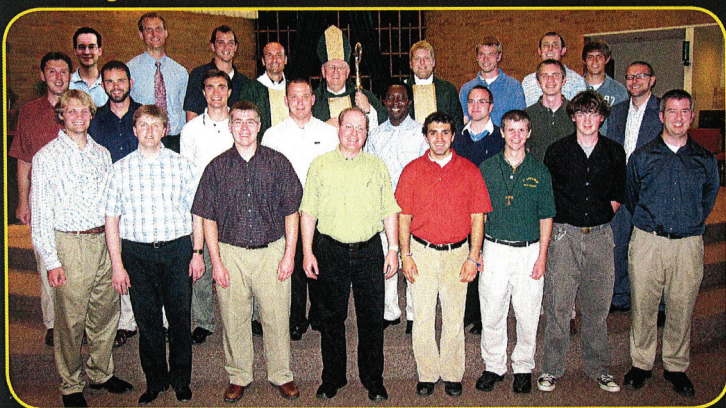
**Heaven says “How much did
they bring with them in love?”**

Pray for Your Priest . . . All Priests!

2010-2011 Diocese of Green Bay Seminarians

Please pray for our seminarians

Many are called, few are chosen...



...to sacrifice and serve

Deacon Bill Brunner
Deacon Luke Ferris
Alvan Amadi
Brandon Barlow
Adam Bradley
Eric Brandt
Jason Hawman
Thomas Holschuh
Kurt Krause
Ryan Krueger
Patrick LaPacz
Edward Looney
Timothy Martins
Gregory Parent

Matthew Rapp
Brian Romportl
Ryan Starks
Michael Thiel
Scott Valentyn
BJ VanDyhnoven
Vincent Wagner
Michael Warden
Brian Wideman



Diocese of
Green Bay



~ In Memory ~

Virginia McKenzie wp – April 24, 2011

Alice Scheele wp – December 19, 2010

Widows of Prayer, Inc. Board of Directors

Mary Reardon wp, President
Natalie Raaths, Vice President
Connie Hannemann, Secretary
Peter Bekkers, Treasurer
Rev. Thomas Farrell
Germaine Doerfler wp
Vernon Sumnicht
Ned Woytych

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

Will You Help the Widows of Prayer?

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.