



The Widow's Mite

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Spring/Summer 2012

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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.

Making Promises

Appleton, WI

On Thursday, March 29th, Marketta Burby wp made her first promises at a 5:30 p.m. mass at St. Pius X Church, Appleton.



From left to right: Fr. Thomas Farrell, General Spiritual Advisor of Widows of Prayer; Marketta Burby wp; Mary Reardon wp, General Servant Leader, and Carlotta Stricker wp, Formation Director.

Franklin, WI

On Wednesday, April 25th Paola Alioto wp and Marie Kopydlowski wp made second promises during a mass at Clare Meadows in Franklin, WI. Carol Hopkins wp from Kenosha, WI made first promises.



From left to right: Carol Hopkins wp; Paola Alioto wp; Fr. Mark Brandl; Mary Reardon wp, General Servant Leader; Mary Kopydlowski wp, and Helen Krueger wp, General Servant Leader of the Franklin/Milwaukee Community of Widows of Prayer.



Above is a picture taken during the retreat of May 21-23, given by Fr. John Guimond, OFM Cap. in Huntington, Indiana.

From left to right: (Row 1) Addie Ness wp, Veronica Bartoch wp, Mae Leedy wp, Vera Johnson wp, Mary Lou Sohn wp, Joan Murphy, Mary Troutner wp. (Row 2) Jean Ann Buzzard, Virginia Salge, Virginia Gibson wp, Mae Bosco, Rose Marie Miller, Charlett Mann wp. (Row 3) Catherine Fitzgerald wp, Father John Guimond, OFM Cap., Pattie Roe.

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble; it is a "steering wheel" that directs us in the right path throughout life.

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's peace.

Retreat for Widows Sept. 9-11, 2012

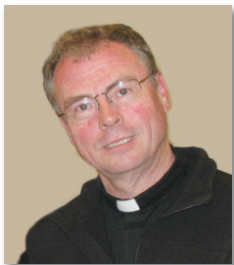
OPEN TO ALL WOMEN

Theme: "Transforming the World Thru Reverence: Meeting Life With a Franciscan Outlook"
The retreat will be conducted by the staff at Monte Alverno Retreat and Spirituality Center

Suggested Offering: \$160.00

Register by calling:

Mary Reardon wp: 920/733-2652 or
Monte Alverno Retreat & Spirituality Center – 920/733-8526



All Because of Your Prayer

The beautiful charism the “Widows of Prayer” are known for, is their prayer for Priests. This year, in the Green Bay Diocese, two men were ordained to the Priesthood. Fr. William Van Dynhoven and Fr. Ryan Krueger. Why was this particular ordination so special for the “Widows of Prayer?” They were there. It was especially exciting for them because both priests served as deacons at weekday masses at St. Pius X Parish in Appleton, the parish from which the “Widows of Prayer” were founded.

I had the privilege to preach at the first mass of Fr. Ryan. During the homily, I shared the words of Pope Benedict XVI – from when he addressed the clergy in the Archdiocese of Warsaw in St. John Cathedral, May 26, 2006. I would like to share those words with you.

You have been chosen – from among the people to form a body based on **all things to do with God**, to offer Gifts and Sacrifices for sins. **Believe in the strength of your priesthood. Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders**, you have received. **All that you are**. When you say “**I, – My, – I absolve, or This is My Body...**” you are not doing it in your name, – **but in the name of Christ, – in Persona Christi – who wishes to use your mouth and hands** as well as your spirit of sacrifice and talents. At the very moment of your Ordination through the liturgical sign of the laying-on of hands, Christ took you under – His special protection; you were concealed under His hands and in His Heart. Plunge deep into His love and give Him your love in return.

When your hands were anointed with Oil, they were Destined to serve the Lord – as if they were His Hands – at work in the world around us today. They can no longer belong, – just to you, but they have to carry forth to the world – the Witness of His Love.

When one thinks of their hands they often relate it to manual labor; when one thinks of their voice they often relate it to conversation, but there is so much more required of one’s hands and voice as a priest. As followers of Christ, a priest needs to begin his day by raising his hands and voice in prayer. As a follower of Christ, a priest also needs to be aware of the many people who support his ministry by the same means. Prayer begets prayer.

Never look at prayer as time lost. It is the most important conversation you will partake in all day, because it is conversation with your God. Pope Benedict XVI tells us that, *“it is through prayer, that the wonderful fruits of pastoral care are born.”* With this being said, I want to reaffirm to the Widows of Prayer of just how important their prayers for priests are. When we see the strength and fury of a fire, we want to get it under control. We need to ask ourselves the question, – what is it that nurtures the flame? Jesus said: *“I came to set the world on fire and how I wish it were already burning!”* When I look at some of the world’s greatest accomplishments, I often come to learn that their success was fueled by people in the background, whose roles were as great a value as those who had the privilege to carry it through.

When Pope Benedict XVI said: *“It is through prayer, that the wonderful fruits of pastoral care are born.”* He didn’t say that the prayer of which he speaks is limited to the prayers of priests (*though the prayer of priests is vital for the success of their ministry*) but I firmly believe that it is through the prayers of many people that the *wonderful fruits of pastoral care are born.*

Once the stage is set and all “*prayer warriors*” are in motion – *of which the Widows of Prayer are a part* – God begins to minister through his priests.

Because of your prayer – the priest calls down the Holy Spirit, and speaks the words of consecration with hands extended during the Holy Sacrifice of the mass. *Because of your prayer* – the priest rubs oil in the hands of the infirmed and calls upon God’s mercy

during the Anointing of the sick. *Because of your prayer* – the priest prays the words of Absolution and makes the sign of the cross over the penitent as he brings peace to their soul during the sacrament of reconciliation. *Because of your prayer* – the priest proclaims the Gospel, interprets the word, and challenges the people to obey God’s laws during the liturgy of the word. *Because of your prayer* – babies are baptized during the sacrament of Baptism and couples are united in marriage during the sacrament of Matrimony and the sorrowful are comforted and the dead put to rest during the rite of Christian burial. *All because of your prayer. Because of your prayer*, the priest finds peace in his ministry, love in his parishioners and joy in his heart.

The Widows of Prayer have a wonderful charism, a holy charism, a God given charism. It was given to set the world on fire. Keep the fire burning so it spreads into all the hearts of God’s chosen ones, and that the words of Pope Benedict XVI will always hold true for it is *“through prayer the wonderful fruits of pastoral care are born and will continue to be born.”*

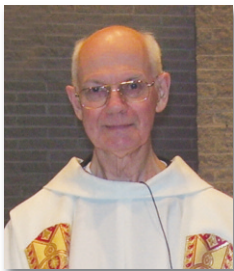
All Because of Your Prayer

Fr. Tom Farrell
General Spiritual Advisor,
Widows of Prayer

Joy. What a Delightful Word That is!

Joy should be the hallmark of who we are as Christians; joy should define the way we live. We have that on no less an authority than Jesus Himself, who said at the Last Supper: “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

(John 15:11)



Rubbing People the Right Way

Whenever a new religious movement begins in the Church, it begins in answer to a felt problem and it will be successful to the extent that it addresses that problem in a positive way. The Widows of Prayer were started because there was a need for support of priests in the parishes and also because of the need for more vocations, which therefore requires a desire for priesthood in our young men. The young have a great capacity for generosity and courage when they see a task that they can get enthused about. So, what can we tell the young men of the Church about priesthood that will make them eager to become priests?

As we become aware of problems, we can focus on what is wrong to the

point of over-emphasizing the wrong and discouraging those who might be able to turn things around. As you know, priests have had a very bad press in our country, lately, and it may not make it enticing for the young to become part of the priesthood. What can we say about priests that is positive, admirable, and worth imitating? There is a lot of that in the priesthood but it is seldom emphasized. When we criticize people, even if they deserve it, we discourage people and they are not likely to grow much holier. If we want holy priests, we have to let priests know in which ways they are already holy and that will give them encouragement to become even holier. And so, any negative in their make-up will be lessened and hopefully eliminated.

The purpose of Widows of Prayer is in the service of the parish, and one of the ways they can be most successful is in encouraging the priests to be the best they can be. Then the young will become eager to join such a vocation.

Make a list sometimes of all that you see of talent, virtue, and holiness in the priests of your parish and let them know what you like about them. That is guaranteed to make their ministry more fruitful by giving them a sense that, in fact, they are already appreciated.

If we want vocations to the priesthood, we have to emphasize what is good and holy in such a vocation and let the young know what they would stand to gain in becoming priests. Then indeed will the Widows of Prayer be seen as a strength for the Church and therefore precious to the Church. You are beginning a needed spiritual movement. Make it clear what the Church can gain from your ministry. Then indeed you will be building a future that will be a blessing to all those widows who wonder where their place is, in the Kingdom of God.

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

Diocese of Fort Wayne (South Bend, Indiana)

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND



Matthew Kuczo



Benjamin Muhlenkamp and Jacob Meyer

Newly Ordained:

Matthew Kuczo
Jacob Meyer
Benjamin Muhlenkamp

**Please pray for
our seminarians**

Transitional Deacon:

Christopher Lapp

Seminarians:

Zachary Barry
Craig Borchard
Eric Burgener
Danial Davis
Robert Garrow

Royce Gregerson
William Harmon
David Huneck
Stephen Jagla
J.D. Kimes
Nathan Maskal

William Meininger
Jonathan Norton
Cristian Reyes
Valentin Reyes
Thomas Saul
Thomas Scheibelhut

Christopher Sindelar
Samuel Sliger
Matthew Soberalski
Spenser St. Louis
David Violi
Thomas Zehr

Diocese of Green Bay (Green Bay, WI)



Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)



Left to Right:

William Van Dynhoven, Bishop David L. Ricken, and Ryan Krueger

Pray for Your Priest... All Priests!



The above six men were ordained to the priesthood at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee on Saturday, May 19th.

Left to right: Jacob Strand, Juan Manuel Camacho, Carlos Zapata, Yamid Blanco, Brad Krawczyk and Ryan Pruess.

Back row: Bishop Donald Hying, Archbishop Jerome Listeck and Bishop Richard Sklba. The three priests in the back row are involved in priestly formation.

In Memory

Mildred McAfee wp – December 18, 2011

Bertha Rosen wp – January 11, 2012

Mary Ann Seidl wp – March 15, 2012



Widows of Prayer, Inc. Board of Directors

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

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 Kathleen Hurley – 586-949-1995



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.