

The Widow's Mite

In This Issue

Issue No. 19

Fall/Winter 2012

• Making Promises

- Huntington, IN
- Wind Lake, WI Area
- Madison, WI
- Appleton, WI

• Day of Reflection

- Chesterfield, MI
- Franklin/Milwaukee and Wind Lake, WI

• Prayer

by Fr. Tom Farrell

• Now Hear This

by Fr. John Guimond OFM Cap

• My Dear Sisters in Christ Jesus

by Mary Ellen Morrow wp

• Newly Ordained

Fr. Enrique Hernandez

• Diocese of Green Bay

• In Memory

• Board of Directors

• Widows of Prayer Contact Numbers

• Donation Form

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

Huntington, IN

During the retreat of May 21-23 in Huntington, Indiana given by Fr. John Guimond OFM Cap., RoseMarie Miller wp, made her first promises as a Widow of Prayer.



From left to right: Fr. John Guimond OFM Cap., RoseMarie Miller wp, and Mae Leedy wp.

Madison, WI

July 26th, Mary Vinje Wanless wp, made final promises as a Widow of Prayer at a mass at Schoenstatt Heights in Madison, WI.



From left to right: Msgr. Delbert Schmelzer PA, Mary Vinje Wanless wp and Mary Reardon wp, General Servant Leader of the Widows of Prayer.

Wind Lake, WI Area

On September 26th, Joan Lee wp, made 3rd and final promises as a Widow of Prayer and Harriette Juchemich made 1st promises.



From left to right: Mary Ellen Morrow wp, Servant Leader of the Widows of Prayer in the Wind Lake, WI area; Joan Lee wp; Fr. Joe Lubrano and Harriette Juchemich.

Appleton, WI

On Saturday, November 10th, Loretta Johannes wp made her 3rd and final promise as a Widow of Prayer at St. Pius X Church in Appleton, WI.



From left to right: Loretta Johannes wp, Fr. Tom Farrell and Mary Reardon wp, General Servant Leader of Widows of Prayer.



"It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Day of Reflection

Chesterfield, MI

Kathy Hurley wp and her candidates from the Chesterfield, MI area meet regularly and had a day of reflection November 12th, at which time Mae Bosco and Joan Murphy made their 1st promises as Widows of Prayer.



From left to right: Irene Warren, Mae Bosco wp, Kathy Hurley wp, Sandy Parmentier and Joan Murphy wp.

Franklin/Milwaukee and Wind Lake, WI

The Franklin/Milwaukee and Wind Lake, WI Communities of Widows of Prayer held a Day of Reflection on August 25th, presented by Fr. Joe Lubrano. Fr. Joe is the Spiritual Advisor for both Communities of Widows of Prayer.

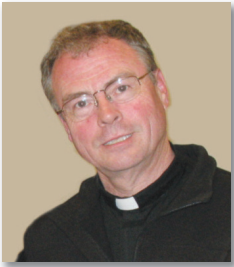


Those who attended from left to right:

First Row: Ginny Rekoske wp, Bernie Ziemba wp, Paola Aliota wp, Joan Lee wp, Harriette Juchemich wp.

Second Row: Helen Krueger wp, Angie Driscoll, Mary Elaine Milbauer wp, Rose Banna wp, Anne Strieter, Fr. Joe Lubrano and Mary Ellen Morrow wp.

Please see page 3 for an article about this day of reflection.



Prayer

As General Spiritual Advisor for the Widows of Prayer, I began to reflect on their mission statement. In doing so, I wondered how many people really understand their mission. It is a very beautiful 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.*

The first two words of the mission statement are “to serve.” How often have we read in scripture our call to serve? The word “service” is defined as:

The performance of one's duty toward God and neighbor.

When we speak of our duty to serve, we often think of the importance of serving God and our neighbor by performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, an important ministry indeed, but there is another form of service to God and our neighbor that is just as important, **“The service of prayer.”**

Prayer is raising one's mind and soul to God. Jesus, Himself, is the best example of someone in prayer. Jesus prayed to God His Father throughout his life. He was always in “communion” with God. Prayer is our soul's “communion” with God. Jesus had a close relationship with His Father and you and I are called to be in that same kind of relationship. **Jesus prayed often for His apostles, His first priests. The Widows of Prayer pray often for priests and for all those in Church leadership,** a beautiful way to imitate Christ.

Vatican II speaks of prayer in almost all of its documents and decrees. In **Presbyterorum Ordinis (PO):**

The decree on life and ministry of Priests speaks of the Church as a House of Prayer and expands on it as it states: “In the House of Prayer the Holy Eucharist is celebrated and preserved.” There the faithful gather and find help and comfort through venerating the presence of the Son of God our Savior, offered for us at the sacrificial altar.

– PO 5

One of the suggested practices of the Widows of Prayer is to enter the House of Prayer, **to attend daily mass; and to be in God's presence.**

The Church is where the official public prayer of the Church is offered with the emphasis on **the presence of Christ in the Eucharist,** which compliments the second statement in the mission.

To be devoted to the Blessed Sacrament.

In “Sacrosanctum Concilium” (SC) “The Constitution on Sacred Liturgy,” we also read that the prayer of the Church is “precise,” as it states:

The public prayer of the “Church” is the Divine office. A source of piety and nourishment for personal prayer.

– SC 90

Another main practice emphasized by the Widows of Prayer is to daily pray morning and evening prayer in the Divine Office. The Widows of Prayer at St. Pius X parish pray the office together just prior to Thursday evening mass. “To serve Christ through His Church is to pray the prayer of the Church...” The divine office nourishes and forms us into ‘that being’ God intended us to be.” Pope Paul VI said: **“To live, it is necessary to Pray.”** In his general audience at the beginning of Lent in 1974, Pope Paul VI stated: **“The question of the presence of Christ – in the exterior world of facts and institutions – and in the interior world of the hearts of men – is at the center of our religion.”** He goes on to say: **“Let's limit ourselves to seeking His interior presence in our minds...and let us answer: Jesus is present in the first place through faith within us.”** St. Paul also states: **“May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith.”** Eph 3: Powerful words to begin the Year of Faith. Pope Paul VI continues:

“The whole of the Spiritual life of our religion is derived from this statement which will be further integrated by another ‘essential element’: grace, and by another ‘instrumental coefficient’ the Church... We know these things of course, but realize how alien they are to the modern outlook, so extrovert so averse to knowledge through faith, so unsuited for meditation in the religious sanctuary of the conscience and so inexperienced in the language of mental prayer. We exhort you on the contrary to learn this language again. Without it, we cannot talk to God, we cannot even

hear His voice – if He should deign to take part in this silent dialogue.”

Pope Paul VI emphasized during the Holy Year that: **“Prayer is part of that Spiritual Renewal to which the Holy Year must lead us.”** Now, almost 40 years later we need to place the same emphasis on prayer and say: Prayer is part of that Spiritual renewal to which the Year of Faith must lead us.

We must learn to speak with the Lord in order to speak to the Lord. A direct sincere talk on our part with the Lord, constitutes a kind of special prayer, personal prayer.

I believe this special kind of prayer, this very personal prayer, happens in Adoration. **There is no greater promotion of Adoration of Christ in the Eucharist than witnessing one on their knees before the Eucharist.**

The Widows of Prayer mission statement is a model for everyone. It is their dialogue with God. We all need to dialogue with God. We are called to serve Christ through prayer. The Widows of Prayer live a life of prayer by praying for priests and for all those serving in Church leadership. They are developing a greater love for the Church by praying the Divine Office. They are having a greater devotion to the Blessed Sacrament through frequent communion and they are promoting Adoration of Christ in the Eucharist.

God calls each of us by name every day. How often do we call upon God by name? **Prayer is your “Lifeline to God”** to your Savior and Redeemer Christ the Lord. **Don't let go of your lifeline, don't sever your only connection to God – stay connected – stay on task – stay the course.**

Pray – Trust – Believe – and you will never walk alone. Stay connected to God and God will stay connected to you through prayer. Pope Paul VI summarizes his reflection on prayer by stating:

“Prayer is that ‘first dialogue’ that we can desire to hold with God.”

Stay in dialogue with God and pray always!

*Fr. Tom Farrell
General Spiritual Advisor,
Widows of Prayer*



Now Hear This!

When we are in the process of putting together a new concept of holy living, one of the most important things is to know how to communicate properly with each other, with society in general, and especially with God, so that we act according to his will as best we can. The better we are at communicating, the more successful we are at making a holy impact on each other and on the world in general.

As concerns our communication with each other, we find very good advice in Isaiah 50:4. Most importantly, we need to have a well-trained tongue, say clearly what you want to communicate,

so people puzzled about what we are saying, and saying too much gives the impression we are controlling the dialogue.

Isaiah speaks of the Lord giving him ears to hear. That is important. We have to really listen to what others are saying, ask clarifying questions as needed, and never criticize. Whatever is perceived as criticism will discourage people from saying more.

Things to avoid: letting a person take over the conversation. We need to make sure everyone has the chance to speak. Another problem is challenge-questions that give people the feeling they are being attacked.

Now we come to social communication. Be visible! Wear your insignia, sit together at Mass, join in parish or social good work. If asked, tell people who you are and what you stand for. But don't twist arms! Present your lifestyle as an alternate way of living a holy and

satisfying widowhood. Then let people decide if they are interested. The less pressured, the more people are likely to decide for themselves if that is a way that would suit them.

As for communication with God; tell Him who you are, how you feel, what your life-dreams are. Be aware of any movement of the heart that lets you know God is there, listening. A sense of inner joy is a good indication that you are being listened to. Also, a thought you never had before and that impress you is a sign of the Spirit's communication. Learn many ways of praying. Avoid the "obligation prayers" (I MUST do this). God will speak in many ways and whatever way you choose will bring Him to you if it is the way that you feel drawn to. And above all, come to prayer often. Remember; conversation is the heart of any relationship.

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

My Dear Sisters in Christ Jesus.

I've been asked to share a bit of news from our group and so I begin. Our group in Wind Lake is very small. At this writing we are a group of six widows – one of whom is in hospice awaiting the Lord's embrace, one who can no longer join us physically due to health which has rendered it impossible for her to meet with us in Church and one who currently needs your prayers as she recovers from health issues. Our group gathers every Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 PM for an hour before the Blessed Sacrament at which time we pray an opening prayer, spend one hour silently praying, and then close with a Prayer for Priests, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and a closing prayer.

On August 25th we were blessed to join with the Franklin group for a Day of Reflection entitled, "Women of the Church" presented by our Spiritual Director, Fr. Joe Lubrano. The day was short and sweet. It began at 10:00 AM with opening prayer, followed by a presentation, quiet time and lunch. Then a second presentation, followed by discussion and we concluded our time together with Mass. It was wonderful!

The first presentation touched upon the history of the role of women in the time of Jesus, the early Church, and specifically widows (Fr. Joe referred to the "Order of Widows" information) and the power and importance of our

prayer as widows in the life of the Church. Fr. Joe used nesting eggs to highlight the theme of being Light – one was Mary & child holding light, inside was Jesus who is the Light and inside that Peter who promulgated the Light. He also brought an icon of the Blessed Mother of the Light. He spoke of the great reverence Jesus had for women, most likely influenced by His Mother Mary, His grandmother, Ann and His cousin Elizabeth.

Everyone brought food to share for lunch, and the afternoon was filled with laughter, sharing and much wisdom from Fr. Joe!

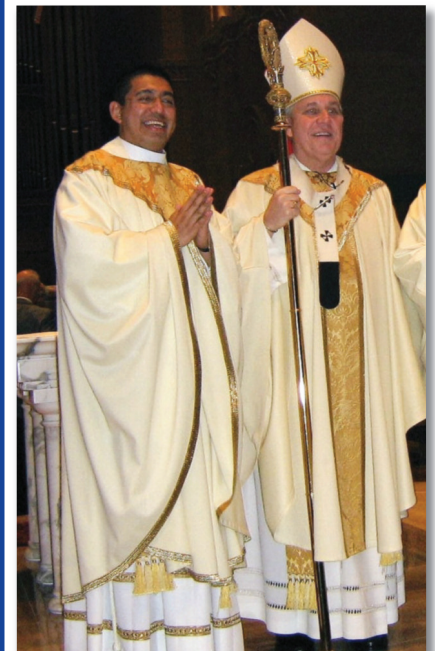
On Wednesday, September 26th we joined once again with the Franklin group as Joan Lee and Harriette Juchemich made Promises at Mass – Joan, her 3rd and final promise; Harriette, her 1st promise. After Mass we enjoyed fellowship and a video brought by Fr. Joe entitled, "Tear Soup". This is a wonderful video on grief – I recommend it highly. Fr. Joe gave a brief reflection after the video and closed with a beautiful prayer service.

That is our news from the Wind Lake and Franklin area! Please continue to pray for us as we do for all of you! God's Love and Mine.

Mary Ellen Morrow wp

Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

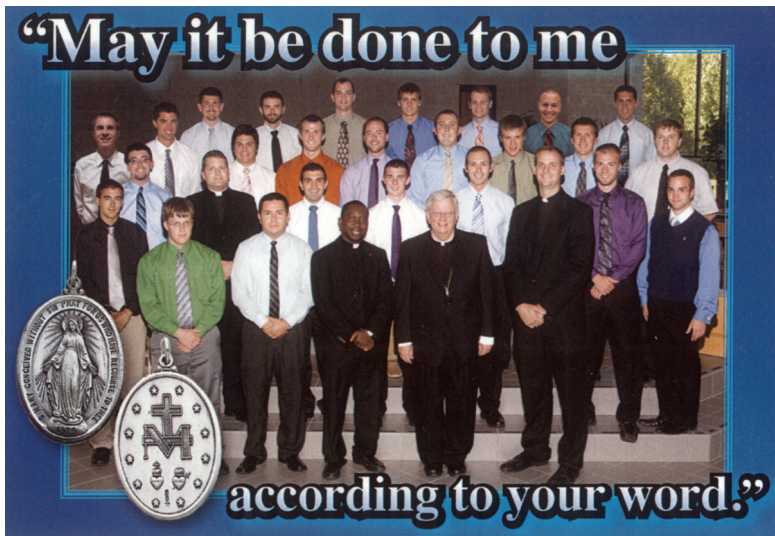


Newly ordained Fr. Enrique Hernandez and Archbishop Jerome Listecki.

Pray for Your Priest . . . All Priests!

2012-2013 Diocese of Green Bay Seminararians

Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for our seminararians!



Dcn. Michael Warden
Dcn. Alvan Amadi
Brian Wideman
Ryan Starks
Brandon Barlow
Edward Looney
Scott Valentyn
Michael Thiel
Bryce Evans
Mark Mleziva
Jon Thorsen
Zach Weber
Adam Bradley
Thomas Holschuh
Matthew Rappl
Jacob Rudd

José López
Michael Wilms
Gregory Parent
Nathaniel Binversie
Michael Picard
Connor Schlaack
Matthew Faucett
Benjamin Johnson
Jon Hynek II
Zachary Vosters
Stephen Zepp



In Memory

Arleen Harder wp — August 14, 2012

Jayne Weber wp — November 20, 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

Wind Lake, WI area
262-895-3482

Washington, MI area

Fr. John Guimond OFM. Cap. – 248-651-4826
or Kathleen Hurley – 586-949-1995

Macomb, MI area

RoseMarie Miller – 586-201-3034



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.