



The Widow's Mite

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Spring/Summer 2013

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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

During a mass while on retreat Sept. 8, 2012, at Monte Alverno Retreat & Spirituality Center, Alice Peeters wp and Susanne Dahms wp made first promises and received the insignia of the Widows of Prayer.



From left to right: Carlotta Stricker wp, Formation Director, Alice Peeters wp, Fr. Keith Clark OFM Cap., Suzanne Dahms wp and Mary Reardon wp, General Servant Leader.

Franklin, WI

During a mass on April 24th at Clare Meadows in Franklin, WI Joyce Eesley wp made 1st promises and Marie Kopydlowski wp and Paola Alioto wp made 3rd and final promises as Widows of Prayer. Fr. Aaron Esch was the celebrant of the mass.



From left to right. Front row: Paolo Alioto wp, Marie Kopydlowski wp and Joyce Eesley wp.

Back row: Helen Krueger wp, Servant Leader of the Franklin/Milwaukee area and Fr. Aaron Esch.

Huntington, IN

During a mass with Fr. Sebastian Twinomugabi on March 12, 2013, Virginia Salge wp made her first promise as a Widow of Prayer and received her insignia.



From left to right. Front row: Cecelia Baker wp, Vera Johnson wp, Mae Leedy wp and Addie Ness wp.

Back Row: Virginia Salge wp, Catherine Fitzgerald wp, Fr. Sebastian Twinomugabi and Sharon Solloway.

Appleton, WI

During a 5:30 p.m. mass January 24th at St. Pius X Church, Appleton, WI, Carlotta Stricker wp made her third and final promise as a Widow of Prayer.



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

Retreat for Widows Sept. 6-8, 2013

OPEN TO ALL WOMEN

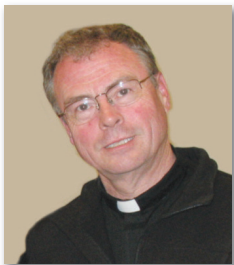
Theme: "The Year of Faith"

Conducted by: Fr. Tom Farrell,
General Spiritual Advisor of the Widows of Prayer.

Includes: Conferences, daily mass, Healing Service, opportunity for confession and time for reflection and prayer.

Suggested Offering: \$160.00 per person

Register by calling: Mary Reardon wp: 920/733-2652
or Monte Alverno Retreat & Spirituality Center –
920/733-8526 or emailing montealverno@juno.com



What Priesthood Means to Me

I was very fortunate as a child to attend Catholic grade school. Yet, as important as this experience was for me, the first time I really learned about my faith was before I even entered school. My first memory about the Catholic faith is when I was about 5 years old. I remember watching my mother come back to her pew after receiving communion. She knelt down and put her face into the palms of her hands. I remember standing on the kneeler and leaning toward her and asking her what she was doing. *She said she was telling Jesus that she loved Him.* I have never forgotten that.

What priesthood means for me is ... *giving my life to Our Lord, serving His people, and telling Jesus every day that I love Him.*

Early on in my life I simply wanted to get to heaven, now this doesn't mean that I didn't get into plenty of trouble as a boy. But, I remember reading about the saints and the urgency they felt to be with Our Lord. My father always led the family rosary and my mother prayed many devotions and had a great love for Our Blessed Mother, St. Theresa of Lisieux and St. Anthony. As a boy, I had the image of the Good Shepherd above my bed and was given a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, while my sisters were given a statue of Our Lady of Grace. I had also known many good priests as a boy, Fr. Norbert Verhagan (a Maryknoll missionary) and my dad's first cousin, Fr. Al Hietpas; my school pastor and Fr. Paul Schumacher.

The priesthood gives me "the more." It gives me the means by which I can bring Christ to others. It is the means in which I have a pulpit to proclaim God's Word, and the sacraments to heal souls. I want others too, to feel the urgency many of the saints felt, to live out their lives for Jesus. I feel God within me all the time. That doesn't mean I don't feel those moments of abandonment. But it does mean that priesthood for me has become a way of constantly living in the kingdom, in the here and now, through the good and bad.

To be "Personae Christi," or in the "person of Christ," had taken on new meaning for me in 2002. It was the year doctors discovered, what I believe they

referred to as a "bleed" in my head that would require surgery. I had the option of not having the surgery, but for fear of putting any pressure on my head, I was not to lift more than 10 pounds for the rest of my life. There was another possible side effect. They told me there was a 20% chance of me losing my voice.

I remember telling a priest friend that I was going to record my voice so I could offer Mass in case I lost my voice. He said, "You can't do that. In order to be in 'Personae Christi,' God has to work through you." I recalled St. Isaac Jogues losing his fingers when he was tortured and how Rome gave him permission to still celebrate the Mass. I thought, maybe they'll do the same for me. I kept thinking over and over in my mind if I didn't have a voice, not only could I not offer Mass, but I couldn't proclaim the Word or preach. I couldn't absolve in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and I couldn't baptize or anoint the sick. I couldn't speak words of encouragement to the disheartened, or support, affirm those who were struggling. I wouldn't be able to share with others what was in my heart.

I began to think about the beginning of John's Gospel: *"in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."* I came to realize more fervently that when the priest speaks, it is God who uses his voice. When the priest says, "This is my Body," it is *God's Word* speaking through the priest, by which the bread becomes the body of Christ. It is *God's Word* who absolves the penitent; it is *God's Word* who anoints the sick. It is *God's Word* who proclaims. It is God who is "totally active" in the priest. From my word, protrudes *God's Word*. God uses "my word" to heal his people. What an incredible awareness the power of *God's Word* has become for me! I learned that even as a priest, I am nothing without *God's Word* alive in me! I also knew however, that even if I had no voice and had to live out my life without all of the faculties of a priest, that *God's Word* would still be alive in me. I went ahead and had the operation and through a wonderful doctor, God healed me.

So what does Priesthood mean to me? It means, learning how to open my heart totally to God and allowing God to work through me; to help save his people. We are all on a journey to the kingdom. The priest has the obligation to help as many people as he can to get to that final destination. When my mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2006, she said she wasn't afraid of dying, she was 82 years old and was ready to die. She said

she was only afraid of the journey. The priest is given to God's people to help them on the final journey. I was able to offer Mass at my mother's bedside every day during the last two weeks of her life. She had been anointed, received our Lord in Holy Communion, and been surrounded by her family during her last hours. The Lord was with my mother on that final journey.

There were many times I as a priest was at the bedside of the dying, that I was in the confessional with the oppressed, and that I was able to comfort the sorrowing. But there were also those times when I was able to be with the youth, and the children, when I was able to be part of the joyful celebrations of weddings and baptisms. Then there were times when I was able to share a meal with parishioners and enjoy the companionship of family and friends and brother priests and sisters.

I believe the priesthood also calls me to be a person of joy. People need to see the love of God in a light heartedness even during those somewhat strenuous moments. I need to be optimistic and encouraging, and just as importantly, I need to be a person of hope. I need to help people know that life is worth living and that God is with them during the most difficult moments of their lives, and to never give up.

The priesthood for me is so much more than I ever imagined it would be. Perhaps the greatest understanding of the priesthood for me, is knowing, that God who is living in me, chose me, to "send me out" to help others come to know that God is also living in them, that He loves them, that He forgives them, and that He will never abandon them.

There are times when I can't imagine how God does all this, through me, and how God does this through the priesthood.

What an amazing life! A life that I learned early on from my mother when I first saw her receive Jesus in Holy Communion with such great love and devotion, and was willing to answer her little boy's question:

Q: "What are you doing?"

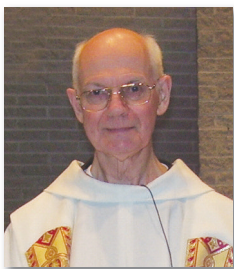
A: "I'm talking to Jesus."

Q: "What are you saying to Him?"

A: "I'm telling Him that I love Him."

Thank you Jesus for such a great mom, because I learned from my mom what priesthood means to me ... *Telling Jesus every day that I love Him!*

Fr. Tom Farrell
General Spiritual Advisor,
Widows of Prayer, Appleton, WI



Let There be Joy

Every new religious movement in the Church comes together to solve social problems. The Widows of Prayer have been founded to pray for the Church and for religious vocations. Another need the Widows might consider is the negativity and gloom in the world. Perhaps one of the problems most in need of being addressed is this lack of joy which can lead to so many negative results, from marriage problems to a growing amount of suicides.

The best help we can be to others is to remain on the sunny side of life. We have to avoid the negativity trap if we hope to put happiness back into our world. As you may have noticed, TV and newspapers center mostly on all the reasons why we should be sad. It is of course important that we care about all the problems that surround us, often in our own families, but joy is vital for us and it is a proof that we love God properly. We sympathize with people's problems, of course, but we don't let them turn us to negativity. We don't take on people's problems but we try to give them some of our joy. That requires that we be people who see the joy in life.

Whatever sufferings we receive are a gift from God meant to deepen our holiness and must be accepted as a gift.

We do need to solve our problems but we have to do so while retaining our joy in God and our trust in his loving guidance. Saints come in a large variety but one thing they all have is the virtue of joy. Those who do not have joy are not canonized as saints. True saints are best suited to fix the problems in the world. In our days, there are countless problems and, to help solve them, we also must be saints.

We are not called to perfection but to holiness and that is a matter of the right attitude and a joyful love for God and for all his creation.

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

Widows Luncheon Appleton, WI

On April 2nd Alice Peeters wp hosted a soup and salad luncheon at her home for those Widows of Prayer able to attend from the Appleton area.



Left to right: Alice Peeters wp, Theresa Driessen wp, Loretta Johannes wp, Ann Ehnerd wp, Lola Dorsett wp, Mary Reardon wp, Carlotta Stricker wp, and Marketta Burby wp.

The Best Time You Will Spend on Earth

"Jesus wants us all to come to Him in the Blessed Sacrament. He is there in person, just waiting for you. Nowhere on earth are you more welcome, nowhere on earth are you more loved, than by Jesus, living and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The time you spend with the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlasting, more glorious and beautiful in heaven, and will help bring about an everlasting peace on earth.

—Blessed Mother Theresa

Thank You

A note received by the Widows of Prayer from the daughter of one of our Widows of Prayer in Huntington, Indiana after the death of her mother.

Dear Mae,

(Mae is the leader of the Widows of Prayer in Huntington, Indiana)

Thank you for the memorial to St. Mary's for Mom. I can't express my thanks to you for inviting Mom into the Widows of Prayer. I'm so glad you didn't give up on her. It truly changed her life and mine. It meant the world to have the support that Widows of Prayer provided. Widows of Prayer gave her a purpose and direction that she needed. Thank you too, for your kind words and support.

With much appreciation and love.

Sue, Tom, Daniel and Megan

Pray for Your Priest . . . All Priests!

2013 Archdiocese of Milwaukee Seminarians



Heavenly Father,

Bless your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require.

Form us all in the likeness of your Son, so that in Him, with Him, and through Him, we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere.

With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

William Arnold (2018)
John Baumgardner (2017)
Patrick Behling (2016)
John Bender (College)
Patrick Burns (2013)
Gideon Buya (2014)
James Cucunato (College)

Mauricio Fernandez (2015)
Andrzej Fretschel (College)
Ismael Garcia (College)
John Gibson (2014)
Enrique Hernandez (2012)
Paul Jentz (College)
Jose de Jesus Prada (ESL)

Peter Patrick Kimani (2014)
Andrew Linn (2016)
John LoCoco (College)
Jose Lopez (2018)
Justin Lopina (2014)
Nathan Miniatt (2014)
John Paul Mitchell (2013)

Mark Mleziva (2017)
Mark Petri (2015)
Arul Ponnaiyan (2013)
Jose Mario Restrepo (2014)
Dennis Saran (2015)
Philip Schumaker (2013)
Andrews Soliz (2015)

Michael Steger (College)
Michael Thiel (2016)
Domenick Tirabassi (College)
Mario Vinicio Alquejay (2016)
Michael Wolfe (2016)
David Zampino, Jr. (College)

~ In Memory ~



Joanne Aird wp
November 13, 2012

Joan Lee wp
January 4, 2013

Harriette Juchemich wp
January 5, 2013

To learn more about the Widows of Prayer, call:

Appleton, WI area — 920-733-2652
Franklin & Milwaukee, WI area — 414-858-9811
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
Utica, MI area — RoseMarie Miller — 586-799-4332

or website www.widowsofprayer.org

WIDOWS OF PRAYER, INC. Board of Directors — 2013

Carlotta Stricker wp, President
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Alice Peeters wp, Secretary
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Helen Krueger wp
Mary Lou Sohn wp
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Vern Sumnicht
Deacon Chuck Agnew
Ned Woytych
Fr. Tom Farrell (chaplain)

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.