

The Widow's Mite

Issue No. 7

Simeon and Anna

Every new religious order in the Church has been founded around the special needs of the time when the order was founded. In reading the signs of the times, we determine what the Lord is calling us to. The Widows of Prayer have been founded around two special needs; prayer for the priesthood and adoration of the Lord. It is interesting that the Scripture passage that has been chosen as formative for the Widows, Luke 2:25-35, zeroes in on those two special concerns.

As is the custom in the Gospel of Luke, there is in this passage a balance between man and woman and their proper place in the Temple. Simeon might be said to represent the priesthood, holding Jesus in its arms and speaking of the future of the Church. Anna is the Widow of Prayer who discerns the Presence of the Lord in the hands of the priesthood and supports that presence with her own hymn of praise.

That is the task of the Widows of Prayer; to reverence the presence of the Lord in the hands

of the priesthood, the Eucharistic presence, and to proclaim this message to all who are part of the Church community. Anna is a beautiful example of holy widowhood just as Simeon represents holy priesthood, awaiting in hope the fulfillment of God's promises to his people. Anna was married for seven years and alone for seventy seven years. The three sevens involved are a symbol of holy completeness.

The task of the Widows of the early Church was to support the clergy and to assist those who were seeking perfection as consecrated virgins and those who were suffering for the faith. What the Widowhood of Prayer will be for the Church at this time in history will be determined by the present and future needs of the Church. But the reality of the presence of the Lord in his Church will always be their central concern as they take their place in the Community of the Faith.

*Fr. John Guimond, O.F.M. Cap.
Spiritual Advisor of Widows of Prayer
of Huntington-Fort Wayne, Indiana*

What Have I Learned About the Widows of Prayer?

I have had the privilege of working with the Widows of Prayer for several years now and I have learned a great deal from them. When a woman loses her spouse, her whole life changes and she has to make adjustments and find something meaningful and fulfilling for her. It takes her some time to make this adjustment. She has to decide what she is going to do now that she is alone. Often her children are grown up and if she is fortunate she will have grandchildren to spend time with.

The women who have joined the Widows of Prayer seem to have found what they were looking for. The Widows of Prayer find fulfillment in their life in the ministry of praying for vocations and praying for priests. They have a rule of life which is helpful for them. They also have understanding and support from the others who have joined the Widows of Prayer with them. We come together once a week to spend time in Eucharistic adoration and celebration of Mass. Once a month we come together to share our reflections on a spiritual book we

have been reading. These sessions have proven to be very helpful in getting better acquainted with one another. It has really been a growing experience.

The Widows of Prayer might not be the way for all of those who lost their spouse, but my impression is that it is a very meaningful life for those who are able to embrace it. I see some beautiful signs of spiritual growth in the women in our group.

*Fr. Kieran Hickey, O.F.M. Cap.
Spiritual Advisor of Widows of Prayer*

**A wise old owl
sat on an oak**

**The more he sat
the less he spoke.**

**The less he spoke the more he heard
Why aren't we like that wise old bird?**



— E.H. Richards

Quotes from "Widows of Prayer"

On Founders Day, the feast of the Archangels Our Lady Queen of Peace Community of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Community of Huntington celebrated together. We began with Morning Prayer and the Renewal of our Consecration as Widows of Prayer. This was followed by an early lunch and a time of sharing. We welcomed two new candidates who shared their faith stories, and concluded the day with an hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Though we are from many different backgrounds, the Lord is drawing us into unity through our common mission. It seems as we draw closer to God in prayer, we are also being drawn closer to each other, and are learning to value each other's gifts.

Our minds are too small to comprehend the mysteries of God, but kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament that day, I was overwhelmed with joy that, in the evening of our lives, God has chosen us to serve Him in prayer for the Church; and that our Widow's Mite offered each day in love is pleasing to Him!

Every moment is a moment of grace when used for His Glory. Thank you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Dorothy Ward, WP

On September 26th, I made my final promise as a widow of prayer. I am grateful for the help and encouragement from Father John and the widows.

It is a real inspiration to be a part of a group who have so much in common, especially the enjoyment and consolation in daily recitation of Christian Prayer and the opportunity to offer up our little sacrifices and troubles in intercession to God for holy priests who will work to gather in a great harvest of souls.

I am not present with them as often as I would like but we are bound together in spirit and the hope that we will all be together in Heaven. I pray that many more ladies will be able to join us.

Peg Karst, WP

Thank you so much for letting me join Widows of Prayer. Being in front of the Blessed Sacrament is what really drew me to your wonderful group. I feel like now my life is complete!

Theresa Drissen, WP

Since my husband passed four years ago I vowed that I would not marry again. I even thought of joining the convent but I think that God had other plans for me. When I heard about the Widows of Prayer I thought maybe this is for me. The more I thought about it the more at peace I felt. But I didn't want to keep going up to Appleton for there wasn't any group in Milwaukee. I kept calling Mary to see if someone started a group in Milwaukee. She always said no. So finally I said that I guess God is calling me to start a group in Milwaukee. I am not a leader or speaker but with the help of the Holy Spirit we have about eight members. We meet Wednesdays at 3:00 with rosary for priests, Communion Service & Liturgy of the Hours. Once a month Fr. (Kim) Joachim Studwell, OFM (our Spiritual Advisor) says Mass for us & gives us a teaching afterwards. Also the first Saturday of the month we get together at the Franciscan Convent by the lake for 9:00 A.M. Mass & spend an hour in their adoration chapel. The Widows of Prayer have been a blessing to me.

Helen Krueger, WP

What I recommend to you above all else is that you get close to Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. You will receive strength and grace that you need to sustain you and that you can pass to others. As Catholics we know that we find a real, living person in the Eucharist and each Holy Hour we make in the presence of Jesus we receive His power and grace for ourselves, our family and parish. Our Lord asked on the night before his death "Could you not watch one hour with me?" I try to spend a hour each morning in reparation to combat the evil's of our time. I feel like I owe him one hour extra a day out of the 168 hours we have in a week. I'm sure you will never regret keeping him company and He will appreciate your presence.

Mary Lou Sohn, WP

When I was widowed the first time in Illinois I joined a group of Catholic widows and widowers called Naim.

When I was widowed the second time here in Wisconsin I joined a Naim group here in Appleton. Now I belong to the Widows of Prayer. Now I am home.

Lola Dorsett, WP

"Widows of Prayer" brings me closer to God thru the mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and daily prayers."

Esther Schnese, WP

To learn more about the Widows of Prayer, call:

Appleton, WI area
920-733-2652

Franklin & Milwaukee, WI area
414-858-9811

Lindenhurst/Chicago, IL area
847-265-0411

Huntington, IN area
260-356-0919

Fort Wayne, IN area
260-422-2960



Who is a Widow of Prayer?

A "Widow of Prayer" is one who has made the Lord Jesus the center of her heart. This is not something new, but a continuation of something that started a long time ago. As a tree is rooted in the ground that nourishes it, we draw our nourishment from Christ.

Our family upbringing has much to do with the faith that is ours, as well as the faith community that upholds our faith.

The taproots of our spirituality are human relationships, theology and prayer. "Widows of Prayer" are called to be the great comfort of the Heart of the Lord. All the love we give to Him is also a deepening of love in our heart – as in all human relationships.

We must remember the widow in the Temple – give God the two coins of our life; our love and our ministry of prayer for priests and all the Church's leaders.

Many are called – we have been chosen. We must be grateful that we have been singled out to be the love comfort of the Lord, the balm to His Heart. That is our central vocation.

Don't let anyone entice you with promises of something better. There is NOTHING better than to be the comfort of the Heart of the Lord – to be His Holy widows.

*Mary Reardon wp
General Servant Leader
Widows of Prayer*

~ Choices ~

Helping your eldest son pick a college is one of the great educational experiences of life – for the parents.

Next to trying to pick his bride, it's the best way to learn that your authority, if not entirely gone, is slipping fast.

— James Reston

News From the Widows of Prayer in Indiana

The Widows of Prayer meet once a month alternating with "Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament", Fort Wayne, Indiana Group and Our "Lady Queen of Peace" Huntington, Indiana group.

On September 20, 2006 we met in the Ministry Center at Victory Noll Mother House, Huntington. We begin our meeting praying the Rosary. Each month we share our thoughts on a chosen theme. Our September theme was "What Being a Widow of Prayer means to Me." All widows mentioned friendship and love for each other as we share our life as a Widow of Prayer. That we never would have met except as a Widow of Prayer. How our life has changed, how involved we are in church and other activities but now find or take time for prayer. Some widows find their life as a journey in faith, as a second vocation in life on her way to holiness. We have received God's Blessings and a deeper understanding of the scriptures, thanks to Fr. John.

We also watched a video "The Jewish Roots to Catholicism, with Brother Bob Fishman.

The Widows of Prayer in Huntington pray the Rosary after each week day Mass. There have been requests to join us and to pray for their intentions, as well as requests to pray for family and friends.

Fr. John Guimond OFM Cap. meets with each group one hour each week. We have a monthly mass for all deceased husbands of the widows present at mass. Any one is welcome at this mass.

*Mae Leedy wp
Local Servant Leader*

We Need Your Help!

The Widows of Prayer is a growing number of widows who have dedicated their lives to prayer for priests and other Church leaders. We have 39 members who have made promises, and 15 more widows are in Formation at this time. Our satellite groups now extend into 4 dioceses.

We have financial needs for books and other materials for our spiritual growth. There are fees for Chapter meetings and retreats as well as traveling costs (difficult for women on a low fixed income).

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.



The above picture was taken as Theresa Driessen made first promises and received the insignia of the Widows of Prayer during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Kieran Hickey, OFM Cap. was the celebrant of a mass that followed.



The above picture was taken during the mass in the Chapel at Claire Meadows, an apartment complex where Helen Krueger lives in Franklin, WI. Several Widows of Prayer from the Appleton area, along with the driver of the van and his wife, attended the mass and first promises of Helen at which time she received the insignia of the Widows of Prayer.

After the mass, Fr. Joachim Studwell OFM, who is the Spiritual Advisor of the Franklin-Milwaukee group, gave a beautiful teaching on the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

To celebrate this wonderful occasion about 25 went to a local restaurant and enjoyed a lovely meal.

It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.

— Mother Teresa



The above is a picture of the Widows of Prayer who were able to attend the Chapter Meeting and Annual Retreat of the Widows of Prayer at Monte Alverno Retreat Center, Appleton, WI the weekend of May 19-21, 2006.



Several of the Appleton area Widows of Prayer traveled by van to Tomah, WI on Oct. 18th. Edna Kriese, who is bedridden and living at Serenity House, made first and final promises and received the insignia of the Widows of Prayer.

Fr. Eugene Trainor was the celebrant of a mass. It was heart warming to witness the joy of Edna as she offers her prayers and sufferings for priests and all the needs of the Church.

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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