

# The Widow's Mite

Issue No. 8



## Spiritual Affinity

As I was reflecting on the Eighth Station of the cross, I found myself considering that, wherever Jesus is powerfully active, a spiritual group will form and follow Him. That is what the holy women of Jerusalem did. Jesus affirmed their devotion and gave them an apostolate; to mourn for the sufferings that would befall their people. If they fulfilled that task properly, who knows how many people they preserved from the catastrophe to come?

As I continued my reflection, I considered that anyone who has a deep personal relationship with Jesus will become a leader of a religious community, whether they mean to or not. Time and again, in the history of the Church, people have flocked to the following of one who had built a holy relationship with the Lord. It seems almost automatic that people will look at one who has chosen to lead a holy life and say, "Me too! I also want that!" And whether they like it or not, the holy persons will find themselves leading others to Jesus also.

This is my theory, that the founding of a new religious movement in the Church is the fashioning of a new door into Heaven through which the followers of the new movement will be able not only to get in more quickly but also to bring many others along with them who might not have found their way otherwise.

The Widows of Prayer are called to fashion such a door into Heaven. Who does not have a long list of friends they would like to bring to Heaven? My own list grows every day. As Widows of Prayer follow their holy way, others will line up behind them to follow them and so to find the way to eternal life.

Keep that door open wide, Widows of Prayer! There are many in the world who do not yet know the way to Heaven. And what a wonder of grace it will be if you are the ones to help guide them there!

*John Guimond, Capuchin  
Spiritual Advisor of Widows of Prayer  
of Huntington – Fort Wayne, Indiana*

## Blessings from the Widows of Prayer

After working with Widows of Prayer during these past years I have learned some interesting aspects of widowhood. I don't think many people realize how much a woman's life changes when she loses her spouse, her whole life changes. From our various sharing sessions, I have seen that the Widows of Prayer are a wonderful support system for them. They seem to understand one another because they have been through the same experience.

I think I have also seen that the Widows of Prayer are a source of healing for one another. When we speak of healing, so often people think only of physical healing but there are many other areas in our life where we need the healing touch of Jesus. We need spiritual healing, healing of our emotions and healing of our memories. Perhaps our widows do not always realize it but I do think that I sense healing has taken place. When we pray together it is not only a time of spiritual support but also a time of healing. I see this as one of the blessings of the Widows of Prayer.

Jesus touches and heals some of those pains and memories these women have experienced as a result of the death of their spouse.

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

### Story of the Widow's Mite

*As Jesus looked up, He saw some rich people putting their gifts into the Temple money box. Then He saw a poor widow putting two small copper coins into the box. He said, "I tell you the Truth, this poor widow gave me more than all those rich people. They gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had to live on."*

*Luke 21:1-4*

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## Quotes from "Widows of Prayer"

Our Widows of Prayer spring retreat was during the lenten season in March, 2007. The theme that Fr. John Guimond O.F.M. Cap. chose was "Easter Women in a Lenten World." Fr. John spoke on the renewal in the Church in the 21st century, new religious orders and new ways of living, not in community. The Widows of Prayer are a gospel people chosen by God to grow in holiness. We live in the ways of the world and in the ways of the Lord. What's in it for me and what I need and how I help others. How we ask God for what we need or what we want and how we accept how God answers what we ask for. If God gave us everything we ask for and the way we want it, we could become a gimme people.

When we start doing something for God it will always be God's way of doing it. We must always be a positive person with humor in our lives. Healthy humor is a sign of healthy humility.

Our task as a Widow of Prayer is to see that our prayers are fruitful and meaningful. Faith is necessary to accomplish good works. Our faith in God and love is what is needed to reach out to others.

Our prayers for the Church and holy priests is our mission in life.

Mae Leedy, WP

Local Servant Leader in Huntington, IN

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### Who is a Widow of Prayer?

- She is one of a community of dedicated women, joined together within the Catholic Church, faithful to the Magisterium, with the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus as the center of her life.
- She is a daily intercessor for God's priests and other Church leaders, as well as family and the concerns of the world.
- She lives a life of holiness and simplicity as an example to family and all those around her.
- She acquires a deepening spirituality thru meeting as a group, books and videos, as well as retreats and other specified times together.
- Her gift is bringing Jesus to those she encounters.
- She realizes that life doesn't end with the death of a spouse, but, indeed, can be a new beginning when answering the Call of God!

— Mary Reardon, WP  
General Servant Leader  
Widows of Prayer

## Retreat for Widows

(open to all women)

### Sept. 7-9, 2007

#### Theme:

"Widowhood of Prayer – A Life Calling"

#### Presenter:

Fr. John Guimond, O.F.M. Cap.

#### Cost:

\$140.00

#### To register call:

Mary Reardon, WP: 920 / 733-2652

or

Monte Alverno Retreat & Spirituality Center  
920 / 733-8526

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### 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

Gina Vincent,  
Menominee, MI area  
906-864-1972  
(our newest community)

or E-mail [www.widowsofprayer.org](http://www.widowsofprayer.org)





In Colossians 1:24 St. Paul says "In my own flesh I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of His body the Church." This does not mean that Christ's suffering was somehow deficient. The Church was born from the pierced side of Christ on the Cross! He have His all!

But in every age the Church must be extended and purified and the Gospel preached. Paul was given this mission in his day and time. Whatever sufferings he endured and whatever sacrifices he had to make were a participation in the redemptive act of Christ on the Cross.

We, as Widows of Prayer, have been called to strengthen the Church in our day through prayer and intercession. Part of this vocation will involve suffering, and especially, as we get older, physical suffering. During Holy Week I visited some of our homebound and nursing home widows and asked them "How do you handle suffering in your life?" I share some of their comments:

1. "I think of the Lord on the way to Calvary, the cross beam digging into His shoulders, already raw and bleeding from the scourging, and hanging on the Cross. He suffered far, far more than the pain I have! I think of others in our little group of Widows that have pain that is constant, and I offer mine up for their relief."
2. "I pray all day, every day. I pray especially that the Widows of Prayer will grow in our group and in our country and will spread all over the world! This cross I have (terminal illness) is one of the reasons I'm still here – to pray for the Church and my family."
3. "Suffering isn't about our feelings. It's about our attitude. We all have suffering. There's not a Saint in the Book of Saints that hasn't suffered. We need to find the joy in suffering. I look to the Saints! One priest told me 'Just let everything else go and lean on the window sill of heaven and gaze on the Face of Christ.' "

4. "When I am in pain, I look at the Cross and unite my cross with His."

5. "Whatever God wills for me is what I want."

As I see the beauty in our homebound and nursing home widows I am awed at the immensity of their gift to the Church in the way they handle suffering. There is a joyful surrender to the will of God. There is a realization that all pain when offered to God in union with Christ's suffering on the Cross can be redemptive.

Life is not passing us by as we grow older, for through our prayer and pain we are in the midst of the saving action of God in this day and time. The Church will be renewed by the anawim, the little ones, that are faithful till their last breath. It is not yet the last day! Let us give our Widow's Mite, each day, every day, to God. Place it on the altar with their bread and wine. As the priest extends his hands over the gifts and invokes the Holy Spirit to come and make them holy, let us trust that our gift will be acceptable to the Father when united with the Body and Blood of Christ.

Dorothy Ward, WP  
Local Servant Leader

May 1, 2007

*The Widows of Prayer has spread its wake like a tiny pebble in a huge lake. We are a very small increment of the Catholic Church, but we are expanding in all directions. The secret? The graces from God and His Blessed Mother and St. Faustina. They are smiling on us through the Adoration Chapel.*

— Rita Lindisch



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 44 members who have made promises, and 19 more widows are in Formation at this time.

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.





Left to right: Fr. John Guimond O.F.M. Cap., Dorothy Ward WP, and Mary Cuney, WP.  
Fr. John Guimond, O.F.M. Cap. and Dorothy Ward, Local Servant Leader of the Fort Wayne Community of Widows of Prayer, witnessing the 2nd year promises of Mary Cuney, WP.



Left to right: Fr. John Guimond O.F.M. Cap., Dorothy Ward WP, Charlott Mann, WP, Ginny Gibson, WP, and Virginia M. Kenzie, WP.  
Witnessing the final promises of Charlott, Ginny and Virginia are Fr. John Guimond O.F.M. Cap. and Dorothy Ward, Local Servant Leader of the Fort Wayne Community.



Left to right: Cecilia Baker, WP, Addie Ness, WP, and Mae Leedy, WP, Local Servant Leader.  
Cecilia and Addie made final promises March 26, 2007 during mass on retreat in Huntington, Indiana.



The above picture was taken on April 18, 2007 after a mass at Claire Meadows in Franklin, Wisconsin when the following widows made First Promises as Widows of Prayer and received the insignia:

Left to right: Ginny Rekoske of South Milwaukee, Mary Ann Suszek of Cudahy, May Yuturralde of Graylake, Illinois and Mary Ann Pajewski of South Milwaukee. Standing is Fr. Joachim Studwell OFM.

...to seek for God is the greatest adventure ..

...to find God is the greatest achievement ..

...to fall in love with God  
is the greatest romance ..

... "We are what we  
think about all day" ...

# Jesus is Lord



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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