



The Widows' Mite

Widows of Prayer

Issue No. 25

Fall/Winter 2018



A Vocation of Prayer

These days, we experience the lack of priestly vocations and we are reminded of Matthew 9:37-38 where Jesus said; "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; ask the Master of the harvest to send laborers for his harvest." Those words fit well for our modern experi-

ence. Few enter a vocation and many are lost to the Church. What are we to do about it? All of us who choose to serve the Lord in a religious group are workers in the harvest. In fact, all who are serious about their faith are called to be shepherds of the Lord, as parents, teachers, special prayer people, or members of a religious group. The more people there are who take their religion seriously, the more priestly and religious vocations will be engendered. Lately, I was talking to a bishop who has Widows of Prayer in his diocese and he told me that they are the best thing that has happened to his diocese. Since their coming, vocations to the priesthood have increased greatly. Ladies, be aware of your spiritual power in the Church, not just because you pray for vocations but because you yourselves have entered a vocation of prayer. Through your vocation, you are no longer just widows but the Lord's widows. And the Lord will take your prayers seriously. You have a large part to play in the movement of grace that will revitalize the Church. I have read somewhere that the parents of a priest will never be lost but will surely be welcomed into Heaven. That goes also for those who support priestly vocations by their prayers and encouragement. Widows of Prayer, believe in the importance of your vocation! Pray seriously for priests and those contemplating priesthood and you will truly become spiritually rich.

Fr. John Guimond, OFM Cap.

First Spiritual Director for the Widows of Prayer

It is with deepest sympathy that we say goodbye to our sister who has moved on to her final resting place with God. May she rest in peace.

† Dorothy Ward, 12/25/17

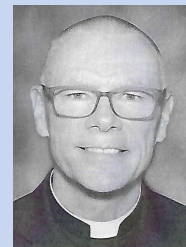
Seminarian's Corner

Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

Rev. Mr. William Evans

Diocese of Green Bay

My mother died when I was four. On the night she passed, my father sent me to the neighbor's house to sleep. In the morning, a very lovely woman, not the mother of the house, woke me up and told me it was time to go home. I did not know her, but I was not afraid to go with her. The lady walked me down the long street to my home. As we walked, she very gently told me that my mother had died during the night. She assured me that my mother was happy and that she wanted me to know how much I was loved. She told me that I would be safe and that I would never be alone. We arrived at my house. I found my father in the living room. He asked me how I got home. All I could say was that "the lady brought me." I turned to point out the lady, but she was gone. My father called the neighbors to ask about the lady. The neighbors knew nothing about her. To this day I do not know the identity of the lady. But I do know she brought great peace and comfort to a little boy who had just lost his mother.



Juan Altamirano —

Diocese of Green Bay



I was awarded a scholarship to study for two years at a technical college in Wisconsin. I did not know any English, and I thought that I was not going to be able to complete the academic program. However, through the Divine Providence of God, represented by my host mom, teachers, counselors and friends, I was able to overcome the challenges of living in a new culture, learning a new language, and being apart from my family. Thanks to God and to all of those wonderful people, this past summer I graduated from college. Moreover, the biggest blessing I have received from God's Providence has been the opportunity of getting to know Him better through the prayers, supports, and kindness of the many wonderful people with whom I have interacted. The Providence of God has let me to recognize that everything is a gift.

Appleton, WI

Servant Leader – Kathy Feistel

The Appleton Community is living life with purpose.

We continue to gather weekly for Adoration, Evening Prayer and Mass on Thursdays. We also gather on the second Saturday of the month for morning Mass at St Pius X and then go for breakfast for a bit of fellowship. It is to this Mass that quarterly we invite recently widowed ladies for a Mass of Remembrance. 20 to 30 invitations are sent each quarter. We do work at reaching out to the newly widowed.

In June we held a Day of Reflection at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Slinger. Ladies from Appleton and Milwaukee as well as guests from St Peter's gathered at 1:00 pm for talks from Mary Beth Meehl and Carlotta Stricker.



Topics covered : Answering the Call and What Prayer as a Widow of Prayer may look like. We prayed the rosary and the chaplet as well as Evening Prayer as community. It was with great joy that we could come together for Mass at 6:30 pm and witness Pat Jeske make her first promise. Slinger is in the Milwaukee Diocese, Pat found it

easier to drive to Appleton and worked on the first year material with us. So we both claim her and pray that soon we can have a community on the north side.

Gail Welter made her first promise with Carlotta present at Johnsburg, WI. Pictured are: Fr. Gary Wegner, O.F.M, Cap, Gail, and her biological sister, Sr. Marcus Steed .



On September 9th, Kathy, Carlotta and Alice traveled to Hatley, Wisconsin, to witness Kathleen Endres' first promise. Hatley is in the La Crosse Diocese and Kathleen is a remote member of the Appleton Community.



She made her first promise at a Sunday Morning Mass with many family members also joining in the celebration. Kathleen's spirit of adventure allowed her to participate in all our Days of Reflection and special gatherings during her time of discern-

ment as well as several of our Saturday morning breakfasts. With God's blessings we hope and pray that this foothold in the La Crosse area will bear fruit.

It was with great joy that we celebrated with Lola Dorset and her daughter the 50th anniversary of Sister Felicity's profession of religious vows. Lola joined her family in Indiana last week at the motherhouse.

On September 17th and 18th we held our Days of Pilgrimage and Prayer. On Monday, we traveled to Champion, Wisconsin, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. We gathered for Mass, lunch with Father Tom and listened to his talk on our relationship with Jesus and accepting His gentle yoke. We are each unique in our call to relationship with Jesus and our response to that call.

We had the privilege to offer our personal prayer in the Apparition Chapel and to pray for our deceased members in the main sanctuary. We returned to Appleton and those that could stay, gathered at Kathy's for dinner and fellowship. We ended a very blessed and stormy day with evening prayer. Tuesday, we gathered at 1:00 at St Pius X for our Chapter Meeting and a time of prayer and reflection. Father Jim, pastor at St. Pius X addressed the group on the importance of discipleship and our growing in holiness. After a brief break, we gathered at 3 pm for



the Divine Mercy Chaplet and followed that with the rosary. We adjourned for private prayer in the Chapel of Divine Mercy or to make our ourselves available for reconciliation which was offered.

We gathered for Mass at 5:30 pm at which time we prayed Evening Prayer and witnessed the 2nd promise of Suzanne McKenzie who, as a remote member, joined us from Oregon.



Widows of Prayer Retreat

**May 7, 8, and 9, 2019
International Shoenstatt Ctr.
W284 N698 Cherry Ln., Waukesha, WI 53188**

**Arrival 4pm on May 7th and depart
after the noon lunch on May 9th.**

**Cost - \$50 per night for a single room or
\$40 per night for double occupancy.**

**Total cost for meals is \$41 which includes
supper, 3 meals on Wed
and breakfast and lunch on Thursday**

Servant Leader – Suzanne Dahms

We held our annual meeting with a luncheon served by the Widows of Prayer on Saturday, August 18th. We welcomed Fr. John J. Sasse to the group. We expect him to be our next spiritual advisor. Fr. Sasse was a missionary at one time. He spent 7 years in Italy and is fluent in 5 different languages. He also spent time in Mexico and in South America among other places. Fr. Sasse hails from southern Indiana.



Attendees were Suzanne Dahms, Alice Buechner, Catherine D. Schroeder and Mary Wanless. Also present were Sr. Mary Patricia Vinje, Carlotta Stricker and Fr. Sasse. We ended our time together with Carlotta leading a rosary.

Fort Wayne, IN – Community 1

Servant Leader – Mary Lou Sohn

Fort Wayne had elections, October 26, 2018. We have a new council, Mary Lou Sohn Servant Leader, Ginny Gibson Secretary/Treasurer, Marilyn Brown, Assistant Servant Leader and Formation.

After our regular meeting today a couple of us went to St. Peters to make arrangements for a Mass for our deceased widows and all husbands of Widows of Prayer; it will be on Nov. 3rd at 9 am. We also made a visit with Rita Carboni a widow at St Anne Home, she looks great.

Franklin/Milwaukee, WI

Servant Leader – Bernadette Ziemba

The Franklin/Milwaukee Widows of Prayer continue to meet every Wednesday afternoon at Clare Meadows to continue to pray for all priests, deacons, religious, seminarians and all Widows of Prayer. This year four seminarians of the Milwaukee Archdiocese were ordained as priests on May 19th. The home parish of one of them was also the parish of one of our Widows of Prayer. Some of us were able to attend that ordination at our cathedral. We've been told by the rector of our seminary that the seminary needed to expand its space due to an increase of young men discerning a priestly vocation. We presently have 39 young men in the seminary.

Once a month Rev. Aaron Esch, our Spiritual Advisor, comes to celebrate Mass with us and share his Words of Wisdom. He has shared some insights with us from his

Servant Leader – Mary Wanhala



A summer tea was prepared by Mary Wanhala for her parish ladies in July. Mary decorated this special cake for the tea.



Promises were also made at morning Mass that day by Mary Wanhala (3rd), Joyce Toenyan (2nd), Fiorita Ricci and Jean Walters (2nd), Louise Bordon and Beverly Gherardi (1st),

Some members Widows of Prayer, of **Blessed Sacrament Parish, Hibbing, Minnesota**, along with Spiritual Advisor, Father Gabriel Waweru, met in Duluth at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The occasion was a Holy Hour of Reparation, led by Bishop Paul Sirba, for the sins of the Church. The event was only one of many being planned for the upcoming year by the diocese and individual parishes throughout the Diocese of Duluth.



Six women of **St. Joseph Church in Chisholm, Minnesota** have begun discerning entering the Widows of Prayer Apostolate. Four of the women able to attend the first meeting gathered after Mass on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Their pastor, Father Anthony Craig, led the congregation in the Stations of the Cross after the liturgy, as part of the parish

program of reparation of the sins of the Church. We see the power of the Spirit as many are moved to pray for our Church.

Studies in canon law.

We had our Annual Day of Retreat on August 8 at St. Alphonsus Parish, where Fr. Aaron is pastor. Our Day included Morning and Evening Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Prayers for Priests, Mass, presentations by Carlotta & Fr. Aaron, and of course, Renewal of Promises. Our newest member, Paula Ann Pezzi, made her First Promise. Her spirituality and friendliness is a welcome addition to our Franklin Widows of Prayer.



Pope Francis Meets with Consecrated Widows

On September 6, 2018, Pope Francis met with participants attending an international conference for consecrated widows, inviting them to use their experiences to help the young and the poor, and to live a life of humility and simplicity.

In his remarks, Pope Francis stated how "widowhood is a particularly difficult experience", adding that some pour their energies into their children and grandchildren. The Pope said that with their consecration, the widows showed that it was possible, with the support of members of the Church, to live a life of service by exercising their family, professional and social responsibilities.

Your consecration in widowhood, noted Pope Francis, "is a gift that the Lord gives to his Church to remind all the baptized that the power of his merciful love is a path of life and holiness, which allows us to overcome trials and be reborn in hope and in the joy of the Gospel."

I invite you, therefore, he said, "to keep your gaze fixed on Jesus Christ and to cultivate the particular bond that unites you to Him. Because it is there, in the heart to heart with the Lord, listening to his word, that we draw the courage and perseverance to give...the best of ourselves through our consecration and our commitments."

Messages From Our Seminarians

Dear Prayer Warriors,
God reward you for your beautiful card and your priceless prayers on the occasion of my ordination. Your apostolate will bear much good fruit for the Diocese and beyond. Blessings in abundance to you all,

Rev. Mr. William S Evans
Diocese of Green Bay

Thank you so much for the email and for all of your prayers! I had a wonderful birthday and I am so blessed to be where I am. God Bless You!

In Christ,
Ben Priebbenow,

Dear Widows of Prayer,

Thank you very much for your prayers. They make a huge difference. Without your prayers it is hard to say Yes to the Lord. Thank you for the wonderful job you are doing. You have a beautiful mission and know that I will be praying for your mission as well. May God bless you always.

Jose' Lopez, (Now Rev. Lopez)

For more information about the
Widows of Prayer, go to our website
(www.widowsofprayer.org) or call

Appleton, WI area — 920-734-8308
Franklin / Milwaukee WI area — 414-427-0020
Verona/Madison, WI area — 608-845-9386
Huntington, IN area — 260-356-8021
Fort Wayne, IN area — 260-484-6300
Hibbing MN area — 218-966-9074

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., 1600 S. Rebecca St., Appleton, WI 54911

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.

WWW.WIDOWSOFPRAAYER.ORG