



The Widows' Mite

Widows of Prayer

Issue No. 26

Spring/Summer 2019

In Loving Memory

Mary Reardon, our foundress died on January 25, 2019, at the age of 84. This issue of the Widows Mite is dedicated to Mary with love and appreciation. Thank you to Fr. Tom Farrell for sharing the homily he delivered at Mary's funeral (copied below). Thanks to all the Widows of Prayer who shared some of their memories of Mary.



Fr. Tom Farrell's Funeral Homily

(Other priests in attendance were Fr. Jim Jugenheimer, Fr. Adam Bradley, Fr. Luke Strand (Vice rector of seminary) Fr. Mark Vandersteeg, and Fr. Quinn Mann.)

On behalf of Bishop Ricken, Fr. Jim Jugenheimer, Dcn. Rick Simon, Dcn. Bob Seymour, Dcn. Dan Zajicek, my brother priests and the parish staff, I extend to Mary's family our deepest sympathy. I met with Bishop Ricken last Thursday, and shared with him that I learned Mary's health was declining. He asked me if I had a way he could get in contact with her. I gave him her daughter Connie's cell and he called her right away and prayed with her. Mary's family told me how grateful they were for his call. Mary died the next morning.

I had gotten to know Mary in the summer of 1990. I stayed at St Pius rectory with Fr. Ron Columbo and Fr. Don Zuleger while serving as chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospital. I was at the rectory when I noticed all the cars at church on a Monday night. I asked the priests what was happening and they told me there was a prayer group that met Monday nights for mass, reconciliation and recitation of the 15 decades of the rosary. This was before the luminous decades were established so I went over and joined them.

Nine years earlier, in 1981, Mary had gone to Lubbock, Texas, where there were reports of apparitions of the Blessed Mother. I remember how someone shared with me how Mary was so impressed on how a nearby parish was able to get a light to shine behind the tabernacle and was sure to tell the staff how beautiful it was but their response was: "we don't have a light shining on the tabernacle."

Ministry # 1 - Establishing Monday Marian Devotions

Upon her return home she felt called to start a weekly prayer group at Monte Alverno retreat center. This is where Mary served as secretary, bookkeeper and promoter for retreats for the center since 1977. The first night 16 people gathered for prayer. The following week 32 people gathered. When the numbers reached 80, Mary asked for permission to move it to St Pius, where it became known as *Marian Devotions of the Fox Valley*. As it grew Mary contacted other parishes and asked priests if they would be willing to offer mass and hear confessions during this time. Each evening, besides the rosary, someone spoke about the saint of the day and led the divine mercy chaplet. Several years later, because of the parishes need to use the church alternate Mondays, St Theresa Parish rotated with St Pius. *Marian devotions* lasted for 23 years, until 2004. That first day I attended I was stunned to see over 300 people in church.

Ministry Number 2. - Establishing: "The Widows of Prayer"

In June of 1994, just three weeks after Mary and her husband Jack's 40th wedding anniversary, Jack died. Just weeks prior to his passing Jack said to Mary what she thought was the strangest thing. "You know, if I wasn't here, you could go on with your work." Somewhat startled Mary asked what he meant by that, but he never responded. A short time after his death Mary approached Fr. Guimond and told him she felt called to be a widow of prayer. He encouraged her to gather a few widows together to look at how she could address this calling. On September 29th of that same year under the guidance of Fr. Guimond, their 1st chaplain, Mary and six other widows established the widows of prayer. Along with praying for priests, the widows are encouraged to attend daily mass, receive Eucharist, reflect on scripture, and pray the rosary. They are now located in four states. This year: *The widows of prayer will celebrate 25yrs Sept 29th at St Francis Cathedral 3 pm*

Ministry #3 - Establishing The Adoration Chapel

When St Pius began a 3 million dollar fund drive in 2003 under the guidance of Fr. Zuleger, Mary sought permission to help establish an adoration chapel. Then associate, Fr. Mark Vandersteeg was very supportive of Mary in this endeavor and she

Rev. Thomas Farrell
Spiritual Director for the
Widows of Prayer



was given permission for the addition of an adoration chapel by Fr. Zuleger if she could raise the funds needed and she did.

Mary then brought in Fr. Larry, a priest from New York to promote the chapel. The 1st Sunday she asked for volunteers to sign up for a weekly holy hour, 750 people signed up, twice the number needed. I can't help but believe the days spent in prayer on those Monday nights at the *Marian Devotions* helped prepare them. The Chapel opened on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 18, 2004.

Ministry #4 – Establishing: Divine Mercy Sunday

Having great devotion to St. Faustina, Mary *promoted Divine Mercy Sunday as an annual day of Prayer and reconciliation*. In recent years 12 priests heard confessions from 11:30 am until 3 pm when the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed at the hour of mercy followed by 3:15 pm mass. This year on April 28th *the Chapel celebrates 15 years on Divine Mercy Sunday*. In early 2005 I offered mass on one of the Monday Marian Devotion nights. It was at this service Mary told me she was praying I would be assigned to St Pius Parish.

Fr. Zuleger had announced he was leaving and other than the fact that Mary knew me I have no idea why she wanted me to go to St. Pius. I laughed when I heard her say that and said *I can assure you, Mary, that will never happen*. About two weeks later, at the Priest personnel board meeting Bishop Zubic turns to me and said: "Fr. Tom, I want you to go to St Pius. I was thinking: you have got to be kidding. There were 10 openings at that time and he was sending me to St. Pius and I thought: *That Mary*. I don't know if it was because of Mary's prayer, but I do know everything is a part of God's plan.

Ministry # 5 – Mary's love for Prayer

I believe Mary's greatest gift was her love for prayer. This was because of her great love for Jesus. *I don't know if many of us really understand the power of prayer*. *Prayer's* powerful because it can change hearts and change lives. *Prayer* helps us to make the right decisions and always leads us in the right direction. Our purpose in life is to love God and we learn how to love God through prayer. *In prayer*, we communicate with God, not only through our petitions, but through praise – and adoration – and thanksgiving. When *was the last time any of us really thanked God for all he has done for us?*

In prayer we learn what God desires of us. *Prayer* helps us to act in light of His plan. *In prayer* we learn how to show love for our neighbor - *by praying* on their behalf and by interceding for them. *I fear we sometimes forget*

that showing love for our neighbor - is showing love for our God. Scripture tells us we cannot claim to love God if we are not loving our neighbor. *Prayer* also gives us hope! When we are discouraged, *prayer* helps us to lift our hearts to the Father. *In prayer* we gain a new perspective. We see things in a new light - we become able to see our own faults and ask God forgiveness for them. *Prayer* allows us to become humble and realize our dependency on God. *In prayer*, we become more able to serve our neighbor especially when it is most difficult for us - in loving them. *Prayer* unites us with one another.

Prayer is that place of consolation that helps us find peace during the most difficult of situations. *Prayer* is that place where you learn to QUIET yourself and to LISTEN

So you can hear God - speaking to you
So you can hear God - calling out to you
So you are able to know Gods will and respond to it.

Prayer is NOT about having a special feeling. Prayer is about being faithful to God when there is no feeling at all. Prayer is about being willing to stand by God who was willing to stand by us - who was willing to suffer for us. *Prayer* invites us into his suffering and it gives us a willingness to carry our cross. I learned when Mary became restricted to her home because of poor health that she said: "*Now I have more time to give to our Lord in prayer.*" and now I personally believe she *has more time to give to our Lord in suffering*.

St Theresa of Lisieux said: "*My whole strength lies in prayer and sacrifice. These are my invisible arms – they can move hearts far better than words – I know it by experience.*"

When I saw Mary a few weeks ago - she was suffering. Her poor arm was wrapped in a cast. She told me how difficult it was for her to take care of herself. I then said to her how humbling it must be and she said to me: "*Father, you have no idea. I can't even wash myself. I'm totally dependent on others.*"

Mary was a *prayer warrior – She suffered for her lord*. I come before you today to tell you *the Widows of Prayer are a unique gift to the Church*. On behalf of all priests – we are grateful for your prayer and sacrifice, especially during this time of great persecution in the Church. Priests are ordained – to BRING HOPE to their people - to FORGIVE them of their sins—to BRING JESUS down upon the altar so the incarnate God can enter into their hearts so that they too can be united with Him forever.

Thank you, Mary Reardon –
for your love for the church
for your love for the priesthood
for your love for God.



Remembrances from Widows of Prayer

In today's reading we read that there is only one thing required of our lord

that we act justly
that we love tenderly
that we walk humbly before our God

Mary, you have acted - and loved - and walked tenderly before our God. Know that God will act justly, love tenderly, and welcome you lovingly into his arms. Mary, because you served God's son and were willing to suffer for his people, God will offer you eternal life and will invite you into his kingdom as we hear in sacred scripture for those who are faithful to Him:

Well done my good and faithful servant - now enter the kingdom my heavenly father has prepared for you from the beginning.

Thank you, Mary, for your love for your family; thank you, Mary, for your love for priests; but mostly thank you, Mary, for showing us your great love for God. God Bless you, Mary, and God Bless the Widows of Prayer.

I first met Mary in February, 2012. I had known of her at St Pius X, but never on a personal basis. I was invited to the quarterly Saturday Mass and breakfast which happened to fall on what would have been my 43rd Wedding Anniversary. Newly widowed, I thought that was rather serendipity.

I slowly began to attend the Thursday evening Adoration and Mass with the group. It was through this casual friendship of Mass and shared experience that I grew to know Mary and her unique relationship with Jesus. Hospitality and prayerfulness stand out as great gifts of Mary. In 2013 I offered to organize the Divine Mercy Celebration that Mary had been doing at St. Pius X. That was the link that tied me to Mary and the Widows of Prayer. I submitted my request to join the Widows of Prayer in September 2013. Kathy Feistel, WP Appleton

Mary, although a quiet person, was gifted with a special way in which one could sense her holiness and sincerity. In visiting with her, I would always come away feeling "energized." She asked if I could lector one time, and I had never done it. I said "no". Months later I began lecturing at my parish church. In doing so, I had to tell her that now I finally listened to her request. Maybe she saw something in me that I didn't know at the time. Her love for the Eucharist is always felt when I go back and re-read Vinney Finn's, *7 Secrets of the Holy Eucharist*, a book Mary gave me when I made my first promise. Alice Peeters WP Appleton



First and Third Promises taken and Private Vows made by Dorothy, (Dottie) Borowski pictured here with Father Tom Farrell, Sacred Heart Parish, Shawano, WI
February, 2019

In the Fall of 2000 Fr. John Guimond came to our parish in Huntington to assist Fr. Ron Rieder as associate pastor. He began telling me of the Widows of Prayer and the Foundress, Mary Reardon. Then in May 2001, I was able to attend the Retreat at Monte Alverno and meet Mary in person. She was very gracious and we visited after the retreat. Mary said that if I decided to join the Widows of Prayer I would be number 12. That was significant to me because my birthday falls on the day that was originally the feast of St. Mathias and I always felt a deep devotion to him as the twelfth Apostle. The correspondence that Mary and I began after that started with a letter she sent me on May 24, 2001 and I was always in touch with her from then on. I have been a Widow of Prayer for nineteen years Catherine Fitzgerald, WP, Huntington, IN

I remember being present at the retreat in May 2002 and making my first promise during the retreat in Appleton. I remember being present for all the Chapter meetings starting with the first one on May 16, 2003. Mary always had time and guidance when I, as local Servant Leader in our Huntington Community, would call her or write to her. Our local community welcomed Mary and she was able to come to two of our local Widows of Prayer retreats here in Huntington. Mae Leedy WP, Huntington, IN

I didn't know Mary very well but only saw her a few times at retreats. I was impressed with her quiet manner and with the fact that she would speak with our Blessed Mother. I am happy to be a part of this organization and will continue to do my best. May God bless all the Widows of Prayer. Ginny Salge, WP, Huntington IN

Mary was always an example to me. She helped me start a Widows of Prayer Community in Milwaukee/Franklin. Mary always tried to come for the promises and was always there when I needed her. She even opened her house to me when I inquired about the Widows of Prayer. Mary will be missed. Helen Krueger, WP Milwaukee/Franklin



Remembrances from Widows of Prayer

At one of the retreats at Monte Alverno I became ill. I told my friend with me about my illness and she informed Mary Reardon. Within minutes Mary was at my room and helped me. Thank you Mary!
Ginny Rekoske, WP Milwaukee/Franklin

We, as Widows of Prayer, can remember the deep sorrow at the loss of our beloved husbands. The void, the pain and emptiness stayed with us for some time, perhaps for even now.

In Mary Reardon, we found a woman of vision who channeled that grief and elevated it to almost a vocation for our lives. Widowhood and Priesthood she saw as a perfect fit. Widows of Prayer became a spiritual mother as Our Lady, to seminarians—our Altar Christus. I am grateful as a widow, and now spiritual mother, for the comfort and graces I found in the Widows of Prayer.
Jan Gilberto, WP, Secretary-Treasurer Milwaukee/Franklin



First Promise taken by Nancy Mary Siebers. Pictured are Rev. Tim Shillcox, Our Lady of Lourdes, De Pere, WI Carlotta Stricker and Nancy Mary, in January 2019

I did not know Mary personally, but I did get a chance to meet her last fall at Peabody Manor, where she was residing. We were there from St. Mary to distribute Eucharist to about 50 residents, which we do once a week on Thursdays, and we begin with a prayer service for those who can and would like to attend. I met Mary in the chapel, and had a wonderful conversation with her. When I learned it was her, I told her of my minimal involvement in the WOP as a board member. Mary was so delighted to hear that and she was so very kind throughout our talk that you could not help but think you are with a very holy lady.

I attended her funeral, and it may have been the most beautiful Mass I've ever attended. You could feel God's presence (and Mary's) during the entire funeral. She is a saint, who will never be recognized formally as one. And I believe Mary would like it just that way! She IS and will be helping this Apostolate as you continue to go forward! Deacon Jeff Prickette— Board Member Widows of Prayer

Private Vows taken in August, 2018 by Helen Krueger and Bernie Ziemba pictured with Father Aaron Esch from the Milwaukee/Franklin Community



Mary Reardon was a very spiritual and simple lady. She loved the Blessed Trinity, especially the "Chalice of Strength."

Upon first meeting her I experienced a very pleasant and loving person who was joyful and very willing to help a new widow adapt to her new lifestyle of not physically seeing her husband but experiencing his presence around her. She ran very organized and prayerful meetings.

I am grateful I met her and glad she can finally enjoy the heavenly banquet together with her husband John.

Praise and Blessings from Bernadine Ziemba, WP, Servant Leader of Milwaukee/Franklin

Helen Krueger had contacted Mary Reardon and was invited to come meet her in Appleton, Wisconsin. Karen Pierce and I accompanied Helen. We had lunch there with Mary Reardon and a member of her group. She shared her story how she was encouraged by a Franciscan priest to start a Widows of Prayer, because her husband died suddenly and unexpectedly, and they had had five children.

Mary was a gentle soft spoken Lady of great goodness, sincerity and clarity. The meeting definitely encouraged the goodness of the woman and following this cause and commitment to prayer life for widows. She and a group from Appleton came several times to visit us and together we prayed and had lunch together.

What a blessing she has been to us. I shall never forget her. Mary Ann Suszek, WP, Milwaukee/Franklin, WI



Remembrances from Widows of Prayer

I had never heard of the Widows of Prayer until I received a letter in the beginning of November 2009 inviting me to attend a mass for the recently deceased husbands which included my husband Nick who had just died on October 22. I remember thinking what a wonderful ministry to have a mass for our spouses, to help them get to heaven!

So it was on that second Saturday in November that I met Mary Reardon for the first time. I didn't realize that our meeting was going to change my life's course. My first impression of her was one of gentleness, class and not to mention "holiness!"

That first meeting made me realize what God had been calling me for. That was ten years ago and I am so fortunate that I was able to spend so much time praying with and talking to Mary about her apostolate. She became my "surrogate mother," my religious sister, my friend, and my mentor. How many people who have entered into a religious institution actually have the chance to not only meet but work with the founder of that apostolate? This was a special blessing and a gift from God for me as well as all of our sisters!

As I reflect on both Mary and the work of her apostolate, Widows of Prayer, Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel and her work for Divine Mercy Sunday, I don't know how she was able to create the first two prayer institutions and develop Divine Mercy Sunday into the huge gathering that it has become. She would just tell me, "When God is at the helm it's easy, just follow!"

That is true, but I would watch Mary as she would busy herself getting everything into place for our Thursdays "Chalice of Strength" at St. Pius X Parish by setting up the altar for adoration, getting the holy vessels for Mass and making sure everything was in place for the priest, then the cleanup afterward. She was always the first to arrive and the last to leave. Then there was the monthly mass invitations that needed to go out by the first of each month. The weekly Friday cleaning of the Divine Mercy Chapel, constant mailings that would need to be sent and all of those copies to be made for our binders, retreat information, board of directors agenda, and writing the articles for our newsletter, The Widows Mite and then bring it to the printers. If that wasn't enough she had bank deposits and reconcile of the statement before it could be sent on to the treasurer of our corporate board to which she was president.

Cecelia's Baker's 100th birthday party in January 2019. L to R Mae Leedy 93, Cecelia Baker, and Vera Johnson. Second row Catherine Fitzgerald



The only time she was not in motion was when she sat down to pray and her day always began with an hour of adoration before the 8am mass at St. Pius.

Her dining room table in her condo was always covered in piles of mailings that needed to be packaged and taken to the Post Office. The postal workers, as did the employees at Office Depot knew her by first name because she was in both places so often.

In the beginning I would watch her as she moved about at her tasks at church, never asking for help or complaining about all of these duties that fell upon her, she was what you could call a "one man band!" In fact, when I asked if I could help, she would say no that it wasn't necessary. Finally after a month of attending the Thursday's Chalice of Strength and realizing all of her work, I told her I would not take NO for an answer any longer and she either showed me what she needed done, or I would just start doing it, wrong or right. She laughed and that was the beginning of her mentoring, the rest is history.

Very few people had any idea of all that she did to establish the Widows of Prayer, facilitate the building of the Divine Mercy Chapel and get enough daily "adorers," coordinating Divine Mercy Sunday and on and on...

She made it look easy! Most people only saw the surface, but her work had layers, like an onion, you just had to keep peeling away until you saw the whole thing. She was a blessing that God gave to me! She was the reason I became a Widow of Prayer. She was by my side these past 6 years since my becoming General Servant Leader, how lucky was I! Prior to these last health issues, we talked daily, sometimes twice a

(cont. on page 6)



Remembrances from Widows

day. I would talk over all of the activities of the Widows of Prayer so she felt that she was still a part of it even though she could not be there physically. She may have left this world for heaven, but I'm still talking to her daily and telling her what is going on, but now she probably knows without me saying it, this just helps me feel close to her...I love and miss you Mary!!! Carlotta Stricker WP General Servant Leader Appleton

I first met Mary in her home in Appleton. Mary was telling me all about the Widows of Prayer and I filled out the application form that day in her house. She said, "It's okay, you can change your mind at any time if you decide you don't want to do this."

I was really attracted to the idea that the widows prayed for priests and their vocations as I believed there was a great need here.

I only saw Mary once or twice after that and the next thing I knew she was in assisted living. She was a lovely person and you could not help but be drawn to her.

May she rest in God's Great Peace.

Suzanne Dahms WP Madison/Verona

After hearing about the Widows of Prayer from a confessor at EWTN's Hanceville Shrine in 2004, my friend Helen Krueger was interested in learning more about this group.

Thus, sometime in 2005, Helen arranged for a meeting with foundress, Mary Reardon, to take place at the Shreiners Restaurant in Fond du Lac. Mary Ann Suszek and I both accompanied Helen on this trip. At the same time, Mary Reardon was accompanied by her friend Germain Doerfler, who like Mary, was a Widow of Prayer.

I found Mary to be a very gentle and graceful person, who articulated the background of the group with much dedication and love for the church and priests. I think the three of us were impressed with the mission of the group and so after some contemplation, Helen felt it was right for her, and thus began her journey to be the first Widow of Prayer in the Milwaukee area. Mary Ann soon followed Helen's lead and I became a friend of the Widows of Prayer.

Karen Ann Pierce of Franklin, WI

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



Mary Reardon & Helen Krueger pictured with Fr. (Kim) Joachim Studwell O.F.M at Helen's 1st Promise in 2006. The Milwaukee/Franklin group started a short time later.

My wife & I first met Mary & Jack Reardon in the summer of 1973 when their son, Tim & our son, Jim, were about to begin their life together as students and classmates at St. Lawrence Seminary.

For the next 4 years we shared much together as parents of students at St. Lawrence. We car pooled rides together and attended many activities together.

After they were graduated in 1977 while Mary was employed at Monte Alverno Retreat Center, I became their accountant at Monte Alverno and Mary & I worked side by side on many projects together. This went well until Mary left Monte Alverno but she & Jack became good friends as well as tax clients for their tax preparation over the years.

After Jack passed away, Mary & I remained good friends while Mary continued as a tax client. Then, when Mary began to organize "Widows of Prayer" she asked me to be their treasurer. I liked what I saw and joined her with this endeavor with much enthusiasm. I've been proud to have been a part of this organization with Mary. Peace,
Peter J. Bekkers Board Member

When I first met Mary Reardon 30 years ago, she worked at Monte Alverno Retreat Center. She was so sweet and kind. Little did I know then, that I would soon be joining the Widows of Prayer. God works in wonderful ways. Theresa Driessen WP/Appleton

I met Mary when we were working together at Monte Alverno many years ago. Then after my husband died in 1984, I heard many good things that Mary was doing. So one day, I was reading scripture, and I felt called to go to the phone and call Mary to find out what Widows of Prayer was all about. I've never been sorry.

But the story is that over time, I never believed in the rosary, because I was a Lutheran and I turned Catholic in 1958. It took Our Blessed Mother to change me.

So I thank Mary Reardon for her friendship and guiding ways. There are many things I could say, but most of all she was a perfect servant for Our Lord and Blessed Mother and the Widows of Prayer. Because of Mary's obedience to Our Lord Jesus, she has shown us the way as Widows of Prayer. Joyce Baldwin WP, Appleton

Paula Pezzi's
First Promise in
August, 2018.
Pictured L to R
Carlotta Stricker,
Bernie Ziemba,
Paula Pezzi and



Teri Erdelt's 1st
promise.
Pictured L to R Car-
lotta Stricker, Ber-
nie Ziemba, Teri
and Father Aaron
Esch August 2018

Vigil Lamps before the Lord

To keep our petitions before the Lord even when we are busy and away from prayer. It is another way of praying always.

The Widows of Prayer are called to be such vigil lights: offering prayers for the needs of the community and of the Church.

In the Native American Tribes the people would appoint members to pray for the needs of the tribe.

Ideally, each parish could have a community of **The Widows of Prayer** to make it their vocation to pray for the needs of the parish family.

This is how it was in the beginning of the Church: Anna of Jerusalem (Luke 2: 36-38) Tabitha (Acts 9: 36-43) and 1 Timothy (5: 5-11). In the very beginning these holy men and women were hermits and went off to isolated places to live in prayer to the Dear Lord and for the rest of their Christian brothers and sisters.

In the Middle Ages holy men and women were chosen and often offered themselves to be Anchorites. Their homes were near to or in some situations attached to the Church. One such holy woman was St. Julian of Norwich. Her house was part of the church and had no door and only two windows; one into the Church so she could follow the Mass and spend her prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The other window in an outside wall where people could come to her and ask for prayers and give alms for her. But over time these holy men and women entered cloistered communities and so were not visible or accessible to the general public.

In modern times we have lost our awareness of the power of Prayer, especially intercessory prayer. We Widows of Prayer are specifically dedicated to prayerful Adoration before the Holy Eucharist and to **prayer in the Community**.

Our reason for existence is to be visibly at prayer and reminding people that **prayer is a vocation and a powerful one at that!** We are to be Vigil Lamps before the Lord wherever we are! Praying for the needs of others and letting the Lord take care of *our own needs as He chooses!*

Trust the Lord totally!

- We need to remember some graces can be given to people only if someone asks for them with unshakable faith.

- **Widows** are a special Gift of God to His Church. As Tabitha, we **Widows of Prayer**, are, and should be, an example of Good Works and Holy Life and in a constant state of Prayer.

VIGIL LIGHTS

Even when no one knows or remembers they are still burning, they are a vibrant prayer for everyone. This little reflection was given to us by Father John Guimond OFM Cap in 2004.

Past Update from Catherine Fitzgerald/ Huntington

Both Cecelia and Vera are 99 years old. Cecelia will turn 100 in January and Vera next July.

Currently we gather in their retirement Residence because the weather is getting bad with rain, wind and early winter dark evenings. we meet every Tuesday, praying and studying together from our Formation binder. We begin our gathering with a prayer to the Holy Spirit, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and prayer to Mary, Queen of Widows. We end with the St. Michael chaplet and Evening Prayer from shorter Christian Prayer. (cont. on page 8)

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**

Continued Update

The main part of our time together we spend on a current topic. We are about to begin a refresher on the History of Eucharistic Adoration by Father John Hardon SJ. This document was provided to all Widows of Prayer in 2009 by Father John Doerfler who was our General Spiritual Advisor at that time.

Also each week we lead a Holy Hour of Reparation before our Thursday parish Mass from 6-7pm. When the current crisis hit our holy Church, our pastor Father Tony Steinacker asked the Widows of Prayer to add this time of prayer to our Apostolate here at SS Peter and Paul parish. The Widows of Prayer also lead the Rosary for any deceased parishioner's wake.

Once per month we Huntington WP join with the WP from Fort Wayne for prayer, study, and recreation. Currently we are listening to a series of taped talks on the Angels given by Father Hardon SJ. We alternate with them in hosting our get-togethers. This Month, November, we are going to Fort Wayne for an early Christmas party. We will play card bingo for prizes. This is hosted by Mary Lou Sohn and a wonderful enjoying time always is had by all.

Catherine M Fitzgerald WP

The 25th Anniversary of our apostolate, Widows of Prayer!

September 29, 2019 (Feast of the Archangels)

**Please join us as we celebrate this milestone in
our religious life and to honor our foundress,
Mary Reardon.**

**A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at
3:00 pm at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
140 S. Monroe Ave, Green Bay, WI.**

**A dinner at the Riverside Ballroom
1560 Main St., Green Bay**

**will take place following church services.
For more information and/or register, call:**

**Carlotta Stricker, WP - General Servant Leader
920-734-8308 or:**

**Alice Peeters, WP General Secretary/Treasurer
920-725-7768**

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

Appleton, WI area – 920-284-9476

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., 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.