

# The Widows' Mite

*Widows of Prayer*

Issue No. 28

Spring/Summer 2020

## From Our General Servant Leader



Spring is always an energy-booster for me. After the cold and somewhat darker months, I'm ready to get outdoors, rake my yard, plant my little garden patch along with caring for my flower beds. I enjoy walking and just taking in the sites and sounds while thanking Almighty God.

We have somewhat done that with the projects for the Widows of Prayer. For starters, we are on the ground floor in organizing Friends of the Widows of Prayer. This could encompass women who are single or married, as well as widows. In Appleton, we have three remarkable women who have graciously volunteered to help us on this project. For now, it is a work in progress, but eventually we hope to bring it forward in getting more prayers for priests and others in church leadership.

Some of our ladies, vis. Mary Wanhala WP and Suzanne McKenzie WP, have had speaking engagements recently, on behalf of the Widows of Prayer. This is an essential part of our mission. We truly appreciate the opportunities to speak to the women and appreciate those who will step up to the plate and do this wonderful work. It has proved to be a blessing for all of us.

Our publicity in technology has brought us to a new level by now having a facebook page. Dottie Borowski, a former HR person with some technical background, generously has taken the time to pattern it after our website. We are getting many visitors to the site, which is: [www.facebook.com/widows-of-prayer-109806533920583](https://www.facebook.com/widows-of-prayer-109806533920583) or you can search for Widows of Prayer on facebook, or even try a google search. Try it out and let us know what you think.

Along with the daily and weekly praying that our women do, we are always impressed how generous they are to offer up another rosary or special prayers when asked to do so. They certainly are prayer warriors in helping those who may be ill, going through some challenging time, or for thanksgiving for favors received.

May God bless all of you for saying "yes" to Him and may Our Holy Mother protect you during these troublesome days of the coronavirus pandemic.

*Alice Peeters WP*  
*General Servant Leader*

## A Spirituality of Widowhood

Those of you who are choosing to be Widows of Prayer are also, by that fact, choosing to be women of destiny in the Church. You need to form a spirituality of Widowhood of Prayer that will serve not only your need for holy living but that will also enrich the widows of the future who will seek in this religious calling a means of enriching their lives and also the vitality of the Church.

I cannot dictate to you what your Widowhood of Prayer ought to be. I can only ask you to look at some of the realities that should help to shape your vocation. To do that, you need to look at the greatest Widow of the Church, Our Lady herself. What was her attitude, her spiritual focus? Reflect on her joys, her resignation, her manner of searching out the meaning of life.

Mary said, "I am the servant of the Lord". How have you been the servant of the Lord throughout your life? What you have been has brought you to where you are. "Mary pondered all these things." The purpose of pondering is to see how things fit together and reveal the plan of God for your life.

"They have no wine." A non-controlling intercessory prayer. We are called not to tell God what to do but to open our heart to Him concerning the needs of our world, our Church, our family. Reflect on your own prayer stance and what might need to be changed in it.

"Do whatever He tells you." You are the Wisdom-figures for your family. It is important that your advice be liberating for them and not just a list of shoulds and should nots. If your loved ones know how to listen to God, they will come to the fulfillment of his will.

Develop a sound attitude toward faith sharing. Be a light to others, not a spotlight. Reflect on how you are called to be servants of Jesus and what being a Widow of Prayer means for you.

These reflections might be part of your gatherings together. Say what you feel and listen intently to what others are saying. Listen with an open mind and a non-judgmental attitude. You are gathering a treasure for the future. Make sure it is pure gold and not an alloy.



† Fr. John Guimond, O.F.M. Cap.  
First Spiritual Director of the Widows of Prayer

## Know Your Seminarians

Do you know who the seminarians are from your parish or Diocese? Not only do we, as Widows of Prayer, pray for our Priests, but we also pray for our seminarians. They are our future priests!

Some communities already have a very active ministry with their seminarians. For example, the Appleton Community requests the names of their diocesan seminarians and each Widow of Prayer chooses one, or sometimes two, seminarians to take "under her wing". This includes daily prayers for that special seminarian, staying in contact with emails or letters/cards especially on birthdays, holidays, etc. This ongoing relationship can produce a special bond with the seminarian. Other communities also pray for their seminarians and attend the ordination and/or First Mass of newly ordained priests.

The seminarian is so grateful that someone extra is praying for his vocation. In our last Widows' Mite, Fr. Aaron Esch (from Franklin/Milwaukee Community) commented that the Widows of Prayer "made such an impression upon me that these faithful women were praying for me all through my years in seminary... They are a great gift to the Church and have been a blessing to me".

If you are a remote member, or your community is not already actively involved with your seminarians, please consider participating. Your Parish, or Diocesan Vocations Office, would have a current list of seminarians.

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## Community News

*Madison/Verona: Suzanne Dahms, Servant Leader*

The Widows of Prayer of the Madison/Verona community continue to meet on Thursday mornings after the 8:30 Mass. We say our Rosary for Priests and Vocations to the Priesthood, followed by special petitions and the Divine Mercy chaplet. We are joined by others in the parish who pray with us. Then again on Saturday morning after the 8:00 am mass, Father kneels and recites the Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We join in Adoration.

Now that the Coronavirus is upon us, we need to pray for all who are suffering and dying from it, especially the 80 priests in Italy, mostly hospital chaplains, who have succumbed to its effects. Remember that we have priests all over the world who suffer and die for the Faith. Without our priests there would be no Sacraments and no Catholic Church. Please keep our priests in mind and heart. God bless you all. Stay well.

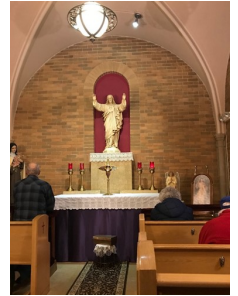
### *Our Mission:*

*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.*

## Community News

*Hibbing, MN: Mary Wanhala, Servant Leader*

Widows of Prayer of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hibbing participate in a weekly Lenten holy hour after the rosary for priests is prayed after Mass on Thursdays. Some of the widows participating are not in the picture due to the layout of the chapel.



Widows of Prayer hosted a Christmas tea for about 75 women of Blessed Sacrament Parish. The tea is held in part to give information about the apostolate and to encourage all the women to pray for priests. New widows are sent a personal invitation to attend.

Also, Mary Wanhala spoke (2 1/4 hours) to the CCW of St. Mary Church in Cook, MN for their Lenten Day of Reflection. The topic was spiritual motherhood, especially for priests, and the Widows of Prayer. Pamphlets on prayers for priests and for the Widows of Prayer Apostolate were given out.

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*Appleton: Kathy Feistel, Servant Leader*

May the grace and peace of our Lord be with you as we navigate this unusual time of church closings and social distancing.

We are committed to praying for vocations and have for 2020 added a public Mass Intention for Vocations on the third Thursday of each month, which is held after our weekly 4 pm Holy Hour. We are beginning to be recognized as the prayer warriors we are, in our efforts to support the Church and her mission: The Diocese of Green Bay asked us to cover with prayer their Diocesan Discipleship Day; we each took an hour and prayed in our local chapel, church, or home. We also provided coverage for the Men's Conference.

We celebrated Christmas with an afternoon gathering with lunch, inviting our local priest to share time with us. We ended with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Mother Nature cooperated and the day & time made for easier travel.

We continue to invite the newly widowed to a quarterly Mass of Remembrance, with the Mass intention for the recently deceased husbands. We are working on more ways of extending sympathy to the newly widowed.

It was a joy to have Father Tom, our Spiritual Director, with us prior to the beginning of Lent. His visits have become less frequent now that he is no longer at St. Pius X. Our afternoon of reflection, Adoration, and Mass with Father Tom ended with dinner at a local restaurant.

## Community News

*Franklin/Milwaukee: Bernadine Ziemba, Servant Leader*

Our local Widows of Prayer group meets every Wednesday afternoon. But now that Archbishop ListECKi has cancelled Masses and church gatherings due to the coronavirus, members are encouraged to continue at home their daily prayers for priests, religious, seminarians, Widows of Prayer, our deceased husbands and peace in our country and in the world.

Fr. Aaron Esch, our spiritual adviser, earned his Canon Law Degree in December. Our Archbishop has options for him in choosing his next assignment in our Archdiocese instead of being pastor at St. Alphonsus. Right now, Fr. Esch is on sabbatical, from December 25th until April 24th. We wish him a prayerful, restful, and peaceful four months. We are awaiting his return to see if he will be able to remain as our Spiritual Advisor. We know God will be involved in this decision. Prayers and blessings to all.

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*Ft. Wayne/Huntington: Mary Lou Sohn, Servant Leader*

The Ft. Wayne & Huntington Communities gathered in November for our Christmas bingo. We did not meet in January. We were so happy to get together in February and started going over a beautiful book by Mother Angelica called *The Healing Power of Suffering*. It is very good and covers several kinds of suffering. I would recommend this booklet for all widows to read. Then we got cold weather and did not meet in March, now with the current shut-down, all meetings are cancelled until May. All our ladies will pray at home and offer extra prayers for the end of the coronavirus.

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**It is with deepest sympathy that we say goodbye to our sisters who have moved on to their final resting place with God. May they rest in peace.**

**Mary Cuney, 12/14/19 - Ft. Wayne IN  
Sharie Falkowski, 1/17/20, Appleton, WI**

## Thoughts for the Day!

*I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.*

*I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one!*

*I've learned that I still have a lot of learn.*

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.*

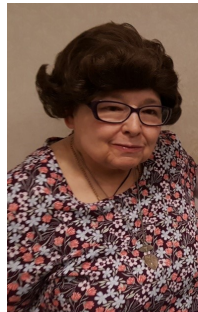
- Author Unknown

## Spotlight On Widows of Prayer

The Widows of Prayer are a special prayerful community, scattered throughout our country. In an attempt for us to know each other better, we are highlighting members in each newsletter.

**Mary Lou Sohn, Fort Wayne, Indiana**

I heard about the Widows of Prayer from my dear friend, Cathy Fitzgerald in Huntington, Indiana. She invited me

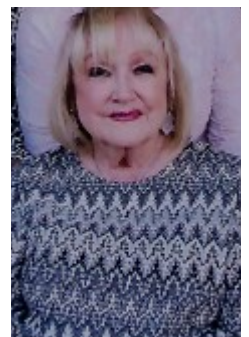


to a meeting in June of 2002. I went to check this group out and liked what I saw, especially all the Widows. The following week I took four other ladies with me. We all traveled to Huntington every Tuesday for over a year to meet with those wonderful ladies and Father John Guimond, our Spiritual Director. After our first promises in 2003, Father suggested we start a group in Fort Wayne. At the present time I'm the servant leader; we meet every Wednesday morning and afterwards we go out to eat.

I have been a Widow for 35 years, retiring from Verizon Telephone in December of 1993. I spend a lot of time doing volunteer work at St. Andrew Soup Kitchen and knitting for my Church, St. Jude. I also make rosaries for the missions. In my spare time I enjoy reading murder mysteries.

**Jan Gilberto – Franklin/Milwaukee, WI**

Jan and her husband were living in Door County when her husband died in 2008. Feeling separated from her 4 children, she moved in with her daughter in Brookfield. Eventually she found an ideal place to live in the Sacred Heart Senior Residence, which is next door to the priests of the Sacred Heart. Jan knew she wanted to do something for the church and called the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



They told her there was this group called Widows of Prayer and suggested she call Helen Krueger. Jan joined the Widows of Prayer in 2013. She appreciates the prayer life of this group, especially the Liturgy of the Hours, and all the Wednesday afternoons they pray together. Jan's favorite thing to do with the WP's is going to the ordinations in May to meet the seminarians in person and present them with a monetary gift.

Growing up, Jan was the oldest of 9 children. She now enjoys her 15 grandchildren and is looking forward to welcoming her 5th great-grandchild in June!

Jan feels privileged to be the sacristan for the 8:30 am daily Mass in their chapel. She also serves on their Liturgy Commission. Jan said that being a widow is like a second vocation, "Being a widow turned out to be a greater grace than I ever thought it would be!"



*Because of the virus pandemic, our May retreat  
has been rescheduled:*

**Widows of Prayer Retreat**

**September 22, 23, and 24, 2020**

**International Shoenstatt Center**

**W284 N698 Cherry Ln., Waukesha, WI 53188**

**We hope you will be able to join us to hear such talks  
from Cardinal Robert Sarah and Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.**

**Arrival: 4:00 pm on Tuesday, September 22, and depart  
after the noon lunch on September 24.**

**Cost: \$163 which includes 2 nights lodging including  
meals. A semi-private room (2 occupants) would be a  
little cheaper. If interested in this option, please let us  
know.**

**Your deposit of \$50 to secure your room will be due at a  
later date, and at that time if you have any special dietary  
needs, please indicate them. The balance of the  
room/board rate will be due upon arrival at the Schoen-  
statt Retreat Center. You can call Alice at 920-725-7768  
for information and registration.**

**Maintaining Your Peace in Stressful Times**

When we are under stress, it is difficult to maintain our peace, whether it be during the coronavirus pandemic or any other situation. We automatically fear the unknown and start to tense up, worried about all sorts of things that may happen. Take a deep breath! Remember that God has been taking care of us throughout our lives. We look back and still can't believe how God was with us before, during, and after the death of our spouse. We never could have gone through those times on our own!

Some helpful tips:

1. Discern the media hype. Do I really need 24/7 access to the information which may or may not be factual?
2. Follow the instructions from health & government authorities.
3. Be patient with yourself and others.
4. Keep in contact with family, friends & neighbors.
5. Pray, and trust in God.

*Many things have been cancelled because of the coronavirus. Love is not one of them.*

**Book Review**

(Suggestions from Widows of Prayer)

**No Turning Back - by Fr. Don Calloway**

It's a great conversion story, confession and autobiography of a lost soul that became a Catholic priest. Fr. Calloway was a diehard agnostic and former drug dealer who was led to the Catholic faith and priesthood by God's grace and the Blessed Mother's intercession.

Barbara Brooks remote member, Hibbing, MN Community

For more information about the *Widows of Prayer*:

website: [www.widowsofprayer.org](http://www.widowsofprayer.org)

[facebook.com/wop092994](https://facebook.com/wop092994)

or e-mail: [widowsofprayer@yahoo.com](mailto:widowsofprayer@yahoo.com)

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

Mt. Angel / Molalla OR area — 503-949-3142

**Will You Help the Widows of Prayer?**

The Widows of Prayer are growing in number with satellite communities in neighboring states and dioceses. 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. 414 Frances Way, Menasha WI 54952-1350

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.widowsofprayer.org](http://www.widowsofprayer.org)