



# The Widows' Mite

*Widows of Prayer*

Issue No. 28

Fall/Winter 2020

## 2020 Ordinations

With praise and thanks to Almighty God, we are honored to present the seminarians in our dioceses who were ordained to the priesthood in 2020. Thank you to all our newly ordained priests for your "Yes" to bring Christ to others and to give witness of Christ to the world. May our prayers for you continue to bear fruit in your ministry.



Rev. Kevin Ripley (left) and Rev. Benjamin Johnson (right) were ordained for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, by Bishop David Ricken, on July 9, 2020



Fr. Michael Johnson, Fr. Tim Mergen, Fr. Vince Rancanelli & Fr. Enan Zelinski, were ordained for the Diocese of Madison by Bishop Donald Hying on June 26th.

Fr. Stephen Felicichia (standing next to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades) was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana on June 6th.

Six seminarians were also ordained to the Diaconate. God willing, they will be ordained as priests in 2021.



Ordained for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 16th are Fr. Justin Weber, Fr. Patrick Magnor, Fr. Carlos Londono and Fr. Edward Sanchez.



Fr. Matthew Miller ordained as a priest on June 26th for the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, by Bishop Andrew Cozzens.

*Sacred Heart of Jesus, Eternal High Priest, let your love flow into the hearts of Your priests and transform them into living images of You. By Your grace, make them true apostles of Your Sacred Heart.*

## Community News

*Franklin/Milwaukee: Bernadine Ziemba, Servant Leader*

On Saturday, May 16th, four transitional Deacons were ordained as new priests for the Milwaukee Archdiocese at St. John's Cathedral. May Jesus give many years of joyful service to all our newly ordained priests. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19 we were unable to attend this joyous occasion as we have in the past years.

In July we held our Day of Reflection and Chapter Meeting. Pictured with Rev. Aaron Esch is Bernie Ziemba, Servant Leader, and Rose Marie Peyovich who made her second promise. Father Esch has been the Spiritual Director for several years but is now being



transferred to Rome, Italy, where he will be working in the Roman Curia. He introduced Rev. Patrick Magnor who will take over as our Spiritual Director.

The WPs who were able to attend our meeting are: front row from left

to right: Jan Gilberto, Helen Krueger, Bernie Ziemba, 2<sup>nd</sup> row from the front: Rev. Aaron Esch, Marie Kopydlowski, Paola Alioto, Joyce Eesley. Back row, Teresa Erdelt, Alice Peeters and Kathy Feistel.

*Madison/Verona: Suzanne Dahms, Servant Leader*

Congratulations to our sister, Mary Wanless, who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 27, 2020!

Our chapter meeting was held in August via Zoom. It presented challenging moments as we tried to connect to this new technology. Thanks to Alice Peeters for guiding us through this process.



We have a new Spiritual Director, Fr. Robert Butz who came to us in July, being transferred from Janesville, Wisconsin. Fr. Butz was ordained in 2000. When Fr. Rob visited Italy in 1999, he met St. John Paul II and calls it an awesome experience and remembers it very clearly. "Pope John Paul II's presence filled the whole room. He was charming, warm, friendly, and even cracked a joke. He was a spiritual father and a person who was very close to Jesus."

### ***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 organized a prayer rally at Hibbing Minnesota's City Hall on the Feast of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests. Thirty people gathered to pray for an end to the pandemic, for the Church and for the Nation. Large banners of Our Lady of Grace and the image of Divine Mercy were displayed during the recitation of the Rosary, the Chaplet and other prayers. In addition to the prayers the event was meant to be a display of public witness to the Catholic Faith in an era when many have fallen away from the Faith or are indifferent to God. It also gave participants the much needed and desired opportunity to pray together and to express their devotion to God. Social distancing and masking were practiced.



*Appleton: Kathy Feistel, Servant Leader*

The spring and summer activities have been interrupted in many ways, yet we worked at maintaining our center on prayer and service. Knowing others are praying the same prayers helps to weather the safer at home rules and to realize we are not alone.

We have been able to return to our Thursday Adoration and evening Mass with Evening Prayer. Our social distance and mask add a bit of humor as we still focus on Jesus. We are so thankful to Father Jim and St Pius X for their work to get and keep our church open and return to daily Mass. Our Perpetual Adoration chapel has reopened with limited seating and on a scheduled basis. But we are open. Praise God!

We will gather for our Chapter Meeting on Thursday, September 17, before our usual Adoration. Promises for Kathleen Endries and Nancy Mary Siebers are back on the calendar for October and November. They will be making their promises in their home parishes and had to wait for calendars to clear due to delays in First Communion and other parish events. We are excited and looking forward to celebrating with them. We continue to look at ways to reach out to others and serve the church during this unusual time.



On Saturday, August 15th, at St. Peter's Parish in Slinger, WI, Pat Jeschke (left) & Gail Welter (right) made their 3rd and final Promises, and their private vows. Very Rev. Robert Stoffel officiated.

## Community News

*Ft. Wayne, Indiana: Mary Lou Sohn, Servant Leader*

Emma Momper (pictured on right with Mary Lou Sohn on left) made her second promise in August. The Huntington Widows of Prayer joined us on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, when Phyllis Martin (center) made her first promise. Afterwards we all went out to dinner.



We have three new widows, Linda Schinnerer, Judy Reddin, & Rosemary Davis. We also have two more ladies who are interested, but have not been to a meeting yet.

In July, our Spiritual Director went back to his country and our Bishop sent us a new Spiritual Director. His name is Rev. Wimal Jayasuria. He is wonderful and has good ideas.

---

*Huntington, IN: Catherine Fitzgerald, Servant Leader*



On July 23, Kathy Heying (right) made her second promise and Janice Martin (center) made her first promise, pictured with Catherine Fitzgerald (left).

Bishop Kevin Rhoades appointed Father Tony Steinacker as our local Spiritual Advisor (photo below).

We have not been meeting, as our Diocese has not allowed any lay groups to begin meeting on church property. This is hopefully to change soon if Indiana's Governor lifts state restrictions.



### Liturgy of the Hours on line

During this Covid 19 you may have extra time to pray. Check out [Universalis.com](http://Universalis.com) for the Liturgy of the Hours as well as Readings of the Mass and numerous other prayers. You can also elect to have daily emails sent directly to you. For an additional fee you can choose the option to hear the Office prayed out loud and hymns sung. Another advantage is you can enlarge the print if you have that need. I highly recommend this site and if you have additional questions, please contact me at [bookly7@gmail.com](mailto:bookly7@gmail.com) or 260-356-8021.

### Widows of Prayer Retreat

*Because of the continuing pandemic, our next retreat has been tentatively rescheduled for May 4th, 5th & 6th, 2021 to be held at:*

**International Shoenstatt Center**

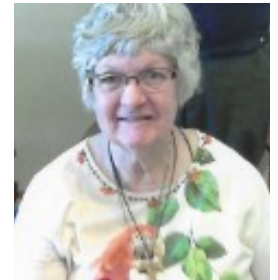
**W284 N698 Cherry Ln., Waukesha, WI 53188**

## Spotlight On Widows of Prayer

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

### Helen Krueger – Franklin/Milwaukee, WI

After Helen's husband died in 2002, she was considering joining a convent. But a trip to EWTN with two friends opened up another possibility. A priest there asked if she ever heard about the Widows of Prayer that started in Appleton, Wisconsin! Helen decided to check them out and talked to Mary Reardon on four separate occasions before she felt that God was telling her to start a chapter in Milwaukee. She started that chapter in 2005 with a few of her friends.



Helen especially likes praying with and supporting the other Widows of Prayer; the priestly ordinations are another highlight. The rosary and Eucharistic Adoration are her support and comfort.

Helen has three sons and six grandchildren. She also has 7 siblings. In her spare time Helen enjoys knitting and singing. She belonged to several choirs and remembers fondly when they sang in Rome. Helen also spent time volunteering, especially cherishing the time at St. Francis Hospital and helping Sister in the Chapel at Clare Meadows where she used to live

---

### Ginny Gibson – Fort Wayne, IN

Ginny Joined the Widows of Prayer in 2004. A good friend brought her to a meeting which she enjoyed. She thought it was a good place to go, and just kept attending. Ginny served two terms as the Local Servant Leader. She



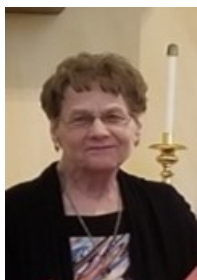
especially likes praying for priests and seminarians.

Ginny's husband died about 30 years ago. They had 6 children that live close to her and she says "they spoil me"! Ginny has 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She worked in the cafeteria at St. Charles School for 10 years, being manager

for three years. At that time there were 700 or 800 children at that school, and they made a lot of pizzas. Now her grandson attends St. Charles School. Ginny used to volunteer in a soup kitchen, made lots of crafts, and even created and decorated wedding cakes.

In her younger days, Ginny attended a convent for 3 years, and learned from a nun to sprinkle Holy Water on people, gates, etc. Ginny still sprinkles Holy Water every night on her children & grandchildren from her home, sprinkling it in the direction they live. She also prays a lot of different prayers and novenas daily.

## From Our General Servant Leader



We all have dealt with a great deal of anxiety and fear in the past several months. The Covid-19 Pandemic, the riots, the political battles all but have given us to wonder what is this world coming to? Did we ever imagine that life would be behind masks, lost jobs, distancing even by families, or much worse, weekend Masses suspended!

Then we listen to the news to find that 92% is negative. Where do we turn? What are we to do? Fear can build up within us. How do we handle all of this? Should we hide from it or take anti-depressants?

Matthew Kelly in an article on fear found on his website <https://dynamiccatholic.com> gives 5 points on how to handle fear. He says that we should:

1. Live in the present, not worry about the future.
2. Plan for tomorrow
3. Entrust yourself & your loved ones to God's providence
4. Manage your anxiety
5. Fight fear with love and gratitude

We can't control the future, what may or may not happen. We all know how the stock market fluctuates and no matter how people plan, it's always a risk. We can focus on today and be grateful that we were able to wake up, to have that cup of coffee and enjoy the sunshine. We can think of our to do list for today and tomorrow, we can "Work as if it all depends upon us and pray as it all depends upon God." To let go of future worries and love one another now by thinking of others first, will keep us happy and bring us the best future here and the hereafter.

*Alice Peeters WP*  
*General Servant Leader*

## Welcome

*We are pleased to announce the following candidates for the Widows of Prayer:*

*Mary Jo Hettwer, Silverton OR,  
Maria Foshey, Slinger WI,  
Carol Riesser, Cincinnati OH  
Linda Schinnerer, Ft. Wayne IN  
Judy Reddin, Ft. Wayne, IN  
Judy Keefe, Niles, IL*

## Prayer for Priests by The Little Flower

O Jesus, Eternal Priest, keep your priests within the shelter of your Most Sacred Heart, where none can touch them. Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch your Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips daily tinged with your Precious Blood. Keep pure and unworldly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood. Let your Holy Love surround and protect them from the world's contagion. Bless their labors with abundant fruit, and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here, and their everlasting crown in the hereafter. Amen.

-St. Therese of the Child Jesus

For more information about the *Widows of Prayer*:

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

facebook.com/WOP092994

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

Mololla, 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)