



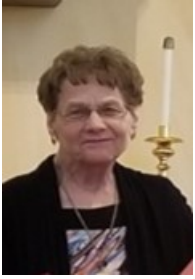
The Widows' Mite

Widows of Prayer

Issue No. 30

Spring/Summer 2021

From Our General Servant Leader



The weather has changed from cold and snowy, to warmer and sunny. Here in Wisconsin, the snow is quickly leaving us. The other day I checked out my flower beds and noticed that some tulips were beginning to pop through the earth for another season. It's this time of the year that gets me excited to the point that spring fever hits. Yes, it is still early, and we could have some colder weather along with some snow, but I don't think that would dampen my spirits. God's plan of Mother nature to bring forth the buds on the trees, the birds returning from their winter haven and the days getting longer shows us that we survived through all the cold and winter storms. We also survived the pandemic.

Did we become a better person because of the restrictions placed upon us? Did we learn a few things such as how to give up travelling or eating in restaurants? Did we add Sunday Mass to our schedule even when it wasn't obligatory? Then we're survivors.

I'm reading a book, written by one of our new Candidates, Josephine Janezic. In *Pepca's Struggle*, she tells of the horrific sufferings she had while living through World War II and communism in Yugoslavia.

I haven't experienced living in a country where my life was threatened with bombs and guns on a daily basis. Giving up the inconveniences of the travel or the restaurant today seems pretty small on the scale of life. But maybe a lesson we learned is not to take a day for granted. Maybe we found that our needs are less and our arms and hearts have expanded in helping & praying for those in nursing homes or those who have passed away.

Yes, we are survivors but perhaps our gratitude has expanded, and we can be more understanding of one another. If we have learned and grown with this pandemic experience then perhaps God is saying well done, faithful servant, you have passed My covid test.

*Alice Peeters WP
General Servant Leader*

Pope Francis has declared this the Year of St. Joseph, from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. Many prayers, novenas, etc. for St. Joseph can be found at www.yearofstjoseph.org

Poem: "Limbo" By Sister Mary Ada, OSJ

**The ancient greyness shifted, suddenly and thinned
Like mist upon the moors, before the wind.
An old, old prophet lifted a shining face and said:
"He will be coming soon. The Son of God is dead;
He died this afternoon."**

**A murmurers excitement stirred all souls.
They wondered if they dreamed
Save one old man who seemed
Not even to have heard.
And Moses, standing, hushed them all to ask
If any had a welcome song prepared.
If not, would David take the task?**

**And if they cared, could not the three young children
sing The Benedicite, the canticle of praise
They made when God kept them from perishing in the
fiery blaze?**

**A breath of spring surprised them, stilling Moses' words.
No one could speak, remembering the first fresh flowers,
The little singing birds.**

**Still others thought of fields new ploughed
Or apple trees all blossom-boughed.
Or some, the way a dried bed fills
With water, laughing down green hills.
The fisherfolk dreamed of the foam
On bright blue seas.
The one old man who had not stirred, remembered home.**

**And there He was Splendid as the morning sun and fair
As only God is fair.
And they, confused with joy, knelt to adore
Seeing that He wore
Five crimson stars He never had before.**

**No canticle at all was sung
None toned a psalm, or raised a greeting song.
A silent man alone of all that throng found tongue
Not any other close to His heart.
When the embrace was done,
Old Joseph said, "How is Your Mother,
How is Your Mother, Son?"**

Community News

Franklin/Milwaukee, WI:

Bernadine Ziemba, Servant Leader

Our group is doing well. We meet at 3 pm every Wednesday through Zoom. On the fourth Wednesday, we meet in person at St. Alphonsus Parish for the rosary and Mass with our spiritual advisor, Fr. Patrick Magnor, who will be celebrating his one-year anniversary as a priest in June. Father gives us wonderful special teachings at our meeting and we also include prayers for priests and religious, ending with Evening Prayer. We are hoping we can all meet with Father Magnor for our annual Day of Reflection, which we usually have in July.

In May, the Milwaukee Archdiocese will ordain three Transitional Deacons to the Priesthood at St. John's Cathedral. A month before that, six seminarians will be ordained as Transitional Deacons. May Jesus give many years of joyful service to all our newly ordained Priests and Deacons.

We enjoy having Josephine Janezic as our recent candidate. We pray that we will all stay healthy and continue our prayerful life.



Kathleen Endres made her third and Final Promise with Fr. Greg Bohren at St. Florian Parish in Hatley, WI on October 15, 2020. Kathleen is a remote member of the Appleton Community.

Nancy Mary Siebers, another remote member of the Appleton Community, made her Second Promise on November 15, 2020. She is pictured here with Fr. Mark Vander Steeg at St. Bernard Parish, Green Bay.



Appleton, WI: Kathy Feistel, Servant Leader

The Appleton Community has weathered the Wisconsin winter and Covid restrictions as well as possible. We continue our weekly group Adoration and Mass on Thursdays and meet for Saturday Morning Mass monthly. Our breakfast after Mass is beginning to happen again.

Sharing what we are reading and watching via Zoom helped remain connected. We look forward to spring and easier gathering opportunities. A visit to the Shrine of Our Lady Of Good Help is in the planning stage.

Community News

Madison/Verona, WI: Suzanne Dahms, Servant Leader



Our dear sister-member, Cathie Duerst Schroeder, (pictured on the left) is now housed in a self care apartment in Willow Point at Verona, Wisconsin. Let us keep her in our prayers.

Our priest at St. Andrew/St. Christopher, Fr. Robert Butz, joins us every Thursday morning before the rosary to suggest other petitions to add, such as prayers for priestly vocations and those suffering from Covid disease. He also called me at home as I was not feeling well for some weeks. We are planning on having a Mass said for the Widows of Prayer and their deceased husbands on April 4th, Easter Sunday.

As Winter takes a turn toward Spring, we hope to be able to get out of our homes, dog walking, anyone? I have had both of my Covid shots which helps me to feel more secure about my health in the future. Of course, we shall still need to wear our masks and continue to social distance. All for the Greater Honor and Glory of God.

Hibbing, MN: Mary Wanhala, Servant Leader

We are continuing to meet but only half of our ladies are able to come due to covid and poor health. Those of us who are able, attend Mass every Thursday (usually every day actually). Because Thursday is the day of the Priesthood, we meet after praying a rosary for priests. During Lent we have a Holy Hour on Thursday afternoon. Until covid restrictions are lifted that will be our routine.

Wayne, IN: Mary Lou Sohn, Servant Leader

We are starting to meet again now, but did not meet at all in February due to the weather. I ask you to keep all our ladies in your prayers as we are all facing challenges. Ginny Gibson had eye surgery last week and we were pleased to learn that everything went ok. Phyllis Martin recently had surgery, but we have not yet learned of her results. Rosalie Waldon has been in the hospital. We are waiting for Spring, the end of the pandemic, and getting back to "normal".

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Widows of Prayer Retreat

Because of the continuing pandemic, our retreat for May 2021 has been cancelled.

We will keep you informed of any new developments for spiritual enrichment.

Community News

Huntington, IN: Catherine Fitzgerald, Servant Leader

In Huntington, since we cannot meet except to attend Mass or go to the church for an Hour of Adoration we are not gathering yet. Cecelia, our 102 year old member is still in Residential care, and we can not visit her. Kathy Heying in South Bend still is busy in her parish school. Janice Martin, in the Diocesan Department of Education is busy gearing up for the end of school tasks. Mae Leedy, Ginny Salge and I get to Mass and Adoration as weather and health allow. We have a new Candidate, Therese Joy Burkett, a retired nurse. Therese and I meet on Messenger weekly as we explore the gems of our WP vocation.

Spotlight On Widows of Prayer

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

Joyce Toenyan - Hibbing, MN

Joyce joined the Widows of Prayer about five years ago. Her husband had died in 2012, and her youngest daughter was now on her own, so Joyce was looking for something. She picked up one of our brochures on her church bulletin board, thinking that it sounded interesting, and wanted to check it out. Amazingly, while she attended a prayer meeting at church that evening, Mary Wanhala asked her to stay longer because she wanted to talk to her! Mary then suggested that Joyce might consider joining the Widows of Prayer! And the rest is history. Joyce loved learning about our program and eagerly made her promises. She especially likes their weekly meetings with other widows and praying for priests. Joyce is so glad there is an organization like the Widows of Prayer. She sends information to her relatives around the country, suggesting they consider joining.

Joyce has four children, and just welcomed grandchild #10 to their family. Three daughters live nearby making it so easy to spoil the grandchildren. Joyce's Mother died recently, and now her 92 year old Dad lives with her. Joyce was in the Army Intelligence from 1977-81 and is now employed as a special needs paraprofessional for the school district, helping students on a one-on-one basis, which she thoroughly loves. In her spare time she enjoys making rosaries, knitting, and especially reading books.



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

Molalla, OR: Suzanne McKensie

Currently there are seven widows who meet once a month at the Mt. Angel Abbey for Mass with the monastic community. We then pray the rosary together and pray some prayers for priests, seminarians and bishops. The monks have a diocesan seminary at the Abbey so we, in a non-China virus year, have a lot of contact with seminarians.

One widow, Mary Jo Hettwer, is eligible for her First Promise. We are working out the details for that. None of the other ladies have discerned a vocation to the Widows of Prayer as yet. Helen Martin, from Portland has joined us and Ann Eng and Joyce Wells are in the process of applying.

This morning our spiritual advisor, Fr Paul Thomas, OSB, gave us a conference on Mary as Our Lady of Help. A view of Our Mother as a very strong and courageous woman.

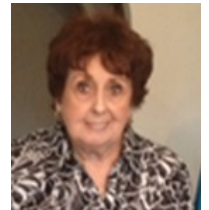
We hope in the future to start meeting for breakfast after our prayers. Oregon is pretty closed at this time.

Spotlight on Widows of Prayer

**Suzanne Dahms - Madison/
Verona, WI**

Suzanne had become an affiliate of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration but was looking for something different. Sr. Pat Vinje suggested she consider the Widows of Prayer. Sue really liked that we pray for priests because there is such a need. She joined the Widows of Prayer about ten years ago and is now the Servant Leader for the Madison/Verona Community. Sue also lectures at Mass and serves as a Minister of Communion.

Suzanne has faced many challenges in her life. She contracted polio when she was 10 years old (including being in an iron lung, wearing leg braces, and much more. Her Mom died when she was 16! Sue eventually received her Masters in Science & Education and worked as a Counselor in Waupun, WI, seeing clients in the evenings at her husband's medical clinic. She was 39 years old when her husband unexpectedly died, leaving her with their three teenagers to raise. When all three children attended UW-Madison, Sue decided to move to be closer to them. She also needed to find employment and worked for the State of WI in the Engineering Department for 22 years. In between all these struggles, she married Bud Dahms (who had a coronary artery disease), and died in 2007 of a heart attack. Suzanne now continues to deal with many health concerns of her own, but is so thankful to be a Widow of Prayer continuing to pray for priests. She says, "It gives me purpose".



Meet and Chat Zoom Meetings



During these challenging times, a new form of communication, known as Zoom, has become a part of our lives. The Widows of Prayer have also used Zoom "Meet and Chat" meetings to connect with each other. Thanks to our General Servant Leader, Alice Peeters, who learned how to use this platform and then organized two such meetings in 2021. Servant Leaders' meetings are also held on Zoom. These meetings can be accessed with a computer, laptop, or any mobile device such as a phone or a tablet.

Our first meeting was attended by approximately six or seven Widows of Prayer. This gave us the chance to really get to know each other better.

The second meeting held on "Fat Tuesday," resulted in 13 widows sharing stories and ideas. Suzanne McKenzie from the State of Oregon shared the effects of their current ice storm, downed trees, lack of electricity, for 13 days. Judy Keefe from Niles, IL reported 18 inches of snow received the day before. We all face obstacles in our lives, but our shared vocation as Widows of Prayer

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.

Paula Pezzi, 10/16/20, Franklin, WI

Vera Johnson, 10/31/20, Huntington, IN

Joyce Baldwin, 12/4/20, Appleton, WI

Mary Yabarra, 1/2/21, Fort Wayne, IN

Maria Foshey, 1/3/21, Appleton, WI

Welcome

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

Josephine Janezic – Milwaukee/Franklin, WI

Helen Martin – Portland, OR,

Mary Rose Verdegan – Remote, Appleton, WI

Rosemary Davis – Ft. Wayne IN

Rose Rita Savine – Ft. Wayne, IN

Rosalie Waldon – Ft. Wayne, IN

Therese Joy Burkett – Ft. Wayne IN (Huntington IN)

Carla Banks-Williams – Remote, Appleton WI

Recipes, Recipes & More Recipes

Do you have favorite recipes you would like to share? Kathy Feistel, Servant Leader of the Appleton, WI, community offered to print them in a booklet. It started as a discussion in our Zoom meeting when Kathy was looking for meatless recipes during Lent, other than tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches! Her thought was that we might even have recipes from our ethnic background which is a favorite comfort food. But all recipes, meatless or not, would be appreciated. You can email them to her at kvfeistel@gmail.com or call her at 920-284-9476.

For more information about the **Widows of Prayer:**

website: www.widowsofprayer.org

facebook.com/WOP092994

or e-mail: 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