



# The Widows' Mite

*Widows of Prayer*

Issue No. 31

Fall/Winter 2021

## 2021 Ordinations

*With praise and thanksgiving to almighty God, we joyfully celebrate our newly ordained priests:*



**Diocese of Milwaukee:** May 15 - Frs. Michael Malucha, Michael Lawinger, and Timothy Schumaker ordained by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi.



**Diocese of Duluth, MN:** June 4— Father Trevor Peterson gives the traditional first blessing to Bishop Felton at the conclusion of his ordination Mass.



**Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN;** June 5th  
Frs. Michael Ammer, Paolo DegasperI, Daniel Koehl, Benjamin Landrigan, Keeton Lockwood, Augustine Onuoha, and Logan Parrish ordained by Bishop Kevin Rhoades.

**Diocese of Madison,** June 25 - Fr. Michael Wanta, left, and Fr. Luke Powers ordained by Bishop Donald J. Hying.



**Diocese of Portland, OR:** June 26— Fr. Randy Hoang (left) and Fr. Anthony Galati ordained by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample.

**Diocese of Green Bay:** July 3— Ordination of Father Patrick Costello (Left), Bishop David Ricken, and Deacon Matthew Colle (Right).



*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

*Appleton: Kathy Feistel, Servant Leader*

We are working on getting back to pre-Covid activity. We meet weekly at 4 pm on Thursdays for Adoration, Evening Prayer and Mass. Fr. Tom Farrell, our General Spiritual Director, joined us on June 3rd and also shared some spiritual advice. Several remote candidates were able to attend. It was also Fr. Tom's birthday so cake was enjoyed before our gathering & again later at dinner for Bev Pouquette's birthday.

On August 12th we were able to enjoy our annual trip to Our Lady of Good Help Shrine in Champion. Several members of the Milwaukee Community, and several friends of the Widows of Prayer joined us. It was a surprise to have 70 people from the Sophia Institute also join us as Fr. Tom Farrell celebrated Mass in the new Mother of Mercy Hall. Quiet time, lunch, and a talk by Fr. Tom ended this great day of prayer, study and friendship.

On the first Thursday of September, we gathered for a brief Chapter Meeting before Adoration. After Mass we met at my home for dinner and friendship. We were all eager to be together and share more of what has happened during our Covid desert days and our time in the wilderness. As widows, we thought we understood what it was like to be alone. We now truly recognize the power of community.

We were invited to share the ministry of the Widows of Prayer and our Charism with a local pastor who is interested in a group beginning in his parish. We will keep that in prayer and hope to increase our numbers as the Lord calls.

We continue to look for ways to draw others to prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. On the third Thursday our Mass intention is for Vocations to the Priesthood. On the second Saturday of the month, we gather for Mass and breakfast.

*Franklin/Milwaukee: Bernadine Ziemba, Servant Leader*



We held our Chapter Meeting on August 4th, 2021. (see photo on left).

Thanks to Teresa Erdelt who is able to conduct Zoom meetings for us so that we can continue to meet weekly. Those of us without computers can join the meetings with our telephones. We meet on Wednesdays at 3 pm. We usually spend about an hour praying together the Three O'Clock Prayer, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Divine Office, prayers for priests & vocations and many more prayers.

Father Patrick Magnor at St. Alphonsus parish tries to have a Mass for us usually once a month.

Because of Covid, we lost our meeting place at Clare Meadows and are looking for a permanent place to gather.

## Community News

*Hibbing, MN: Mary Wanhala, Servant Leader*

Fio Ricci and Beverly Gherardi of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hibbing made their final promises as Widows of Prayer. As Servant leader, Mary Wanhala received the pledges and Fr. Trevor Peterson confirmed them. The ceremony was conducted in the context of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. (Pictured L to R: Fio Ricci, Mary Wanhala, Beverly Gherardi).



Blessed Sacrament Parishes Widows of Prayer held a summer tea for all women of the parish. A tea is held three times a year as a means to introduce and explain the apostolate to the greater community. Though all women are

welcome, recently widowed women are specifically invited as well as the parish Priests. Fr. Daniel Weiske, the new pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish is shown in the picture. Paper work is being done in the hope that Fr. Weiske will be appointed our new Spiritual Advisor.

*Molalla, OR: Suzanne McKenzie, Servant Leader in Formation*

The Oregon Widows of Prayer welcomed our first Sister, Mary Jo Hettwer, this year. Mary Jo made her first promise at her parish church, St Paul, in Silverton, Oregon on May 14 (on right). Two candidates were also added: Joyce Wells and Helen Martin, both of Portland.



On left: Suzanne McKenzie, Mary Jo Hettwer, Fr. Tetzeli Umingli, pastor, Alice Peeters & Carlotta Stricker.

Our Oregon Community will have our first retreat on November 9, at the guest house at Mt. Angel Abbey, a Benedictine monastery.

The Community includes other widows who join us for Mass and prayers once a month at the Abbey community Mass. The first Chapter meeting will be scheduled this Fall with a date yet to be determined.

### ***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

*Fort Wayne, IN: Mary Lou Sohn, Servant Leader*



Emma Momper made her Final Promise on July 28, 2021 at St. Mary Parish, Ft. Wayne, IN.

Pictured L to R with Emma is Rev. Tony Steinacker of St. Peter & Paul Parish, Huntington, and Mary Lou Sohn.

On Wednesday, September 8th, our Community had 4 ladies make their First Promise and receive our emblem as a Widow of Prayer: Rosemary Davis, Judy Reddin, Rose Rita Sovine & Rosalie Waldon. Mass was at St. Mary Mother of God Church, celebrated by our spiritual leader, Father Wimal Jayasuria. Fr. Daniel Durkin, a retired Priest, came as a guest and he concelebrated the Mass with Fr. Jayasuria. Afterwards we went to eat at Sarah's. Our Huntington Widows of Prayer joined us.



Some of the Ft. Wayne and Huntington Communities who attended the 2021 annual Chapter Meeting at St. Mary Parish in Ft. Wayne. Pictured with the group is Father Don Wimal Jayasuriya. Some women already had left before the picture was taken.

*Madison/Verona: Suzanne Dahms, Servant Leader*

In June I fell in my garage and broke my neck, so I have not been very mobile for a while and unable to really do much with the group. I hope to be able to get back together with them for prayer time on Thursday mornings after Mass at St. Andrew very soon. They have been doing a great job of praying together, and we have a large number of people who are not widows. So that says a lot. We had two young men from our diocese ordained as priests, Michael Wanta and Luke Powers. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Some of us were unable to make the annual retreat this year, but I am sure that it was fruitful just as in prior years. All for the Greater Honor and Glory of God. Have a Blessed Winter Season.

"There are no bad priests, only priests for whom there has not been enough prayer." St. John Vianney

## Community News

*Huntington, IN: Catherine Fitzgerald, Servant Leader*

On July 28th, Kathy Heying who lives and works in Holy Family Parish in South Bend made her Third Promise and professed her vows of Consecrated Life, witnessed by Fr. Glenn Kohrman, her Pastor and Spiritual Advisor. Fr. Kohrman's mother, Bonnie, had been a Widow of Prayer of the Ft. Wayne Community, but died of cancer as a candidate.



Janice Martin professed her Second Promise in July at St. Mary Parish in Ft. Wayne. (Pictured L to R is Janice Martin, Rev Tony Steinacker, pastor St. Peter & Paul Parish,

Huntington, and Catherine Fitzgerald). Janice serves as Administrative Assistant to Catholic Education and Catechesis for the Fort-Wayne-South Bend Diocese. Janice is also the Moderator of our Widows of Prayer Facebook site.

We have a new inquirer, Mary Therese Turner, who in spite of living in a Nursing Home wants to become a Widow of Prayer. Mae Leedy and Virginia Salge still need prayers during their illnesses. Our candidate, Therese Joy Burkett, recently had cataract surgery and is healing well. Cecelia Baker (aged 102) went home to the Lord on the first Saturday of September, a day dedicated to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. Cecelia spent many hours daily in conversation with Mary on her rosary.

**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.**

**Ginny Rekoski, 5/27/21, Franklin-Milwaukee**

**Mary Voors, 6/8/21, Fort Wayne**

**Cecilia Baker, 9/4/21, Huntington**

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

## Our Retreat

Our 2021 Widows of Prayer annual retreat was held on September 28th through the 30th, at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha, WI. Twenty ladies attended from WI, MN, IL and IN. We enjoy seeing one another and making new acquaintances with our Candidates.



Father Patrick Magnor from St. Alphonsus Parish in Greenfield celebrated Mass for us on the 29th of Sept. We all witnessed our Candidate Judy Keefe from Niles, IL make her first promise as a Widow of Prayer.

Because it was the 27th anniversary of the founding of the Widows of Prayer, a special decorated cake added to our lunch.



Our retreat presentations included Josephine Janezic (Milwaukee/Franklin Community), who spoke on how Christ influenced her life. Her New York Times best selling book, Pepca's Struggle, explained her life in Slovenia in WWII and in the communism era. Her escape to Italy and finding a new life in Australia and United States was most interesting. Sister Patricia Mary's talk on Julian of Norwich gave us the insight of how an anchoress would live during the 1300's apart from the world and the holiness that she was noted for. Her visions and suffering of the passion of Our Lord brought many notable people to seek her advice.

Videos of Steven Ray's Together on a Journey to Saint-hood and Father Chris Alar's What Heaven is Like confirmed our desire to be those Widows of Prayer on this life journey. Sister Bethany Madonna's videos on Prayer and My Father & Yours included many heartfelt stories how The Father loves us, trusts us, shows us mercy and calls us to go forth to others. It truly was a fruitful and meaningful time.

## Book Reviews

### *The Life of Mary as Seen by the Mystics*

-by Raphael Brown

I've read this book at least three times. I never get tired of the images portrayed in the life of the Holy Family from St. Ann and St. Joachim to the Ascension. It gives added insight such as when no food was available for the Holy Family, Mary and Joseph each retired to their room and prayed. The angels prepared the table and set on it fresh bread, fish, fruit and jelly. On rare occasions Mary would command the birds to bring some fish, fruit or bread.

Such things as how Jesus and Our Holy Mother were involved in the plans of the Cana wedding or the passion and resurrection of Christ, I found to be most interesting.

Some of the things that I read, I have now incorporated in my meditations on the stations of the Cross and/or the rosary. Because they are mystics such as St. Elizabeth of Schoenau, St. Bridget of Sweden, and others who have written about these events, one does not have to believe them.

This book was written and published in 1951 and has been reprinted several times up to 2014, which is my book.

Submitted by Alice Peeters WP

*To submit a review of a book, or a website, that you have found inspiring, and would like to share in a future Widows' Mite, please send information to [widowsofprayer@gmail.com](mailto:widowsofprayer@gmail.com)*

### Chuckle for the Day

I visited a monastery and as I walked past the kitchen I saw a man frying chips. I asked him "Are you the friar?" He replied "No, I'm the chip monk..."

### 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:

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Any amount given will be greatly appreciated. Remember the Widows of Prayer in your will.

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