



The Widows' Mite

Widows of Prayer

Issue No. 33

Fall/Winter 2022

2022 Ordinations

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



Diocese of Milwaukee, WI: May 22 - Fr. Matthew Kirk, Fr. Kevin Harmon, Fr. Ariel Orozco, Fr. Matthew Ferch, Fr. Tonny Kizza, and Fr. Pedro Ruiz ordained by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi.



Diocese of Duluth, MN: June 24 — Fr. Scott Padrnos and Fr. Daniel Hammer ordained by Bishop Daniel Felton.

Diocese of Madison, WI : May 27 - Fr. Matthew Pearson ordained by Bishop Donald J. Hying.



Diocese of Portland, OR: June 25 — Fr. Dustin Busse ordained by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample.



Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN; June 4 — Frs. LeeAllen Fortin, Brian Isenbarger, and Mark Hellinger ordained by Bishop Kevin Rhoades.



Diocese of Green Bay, WI: July 2 — Fr. Matthew Colle ordained by Bishop David L. Ricken at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay.

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 continue to gather for Adoration and Mass on Thursdays at 4:00pm with Mass at 5:30pm. This is open to the public and we are pleased to have 35/50 join us for Mass.

In May, the Appleton Community sponsored a day at Our Lady of Good Help with Father Tom Farrell, Spiritual Director of WP, as celebrant of Mass followed by a bit of encouragement for us. We were joined by Friends of the Appleton, Green Bay, and Milwaukee Widows of Prayer. We hope to make this an annual gathering, especially offering encouragement for Widows.



We gathered on July 13, 2022, for our annual Chapter Meeting.

Pictured from L to R are back row: Carlotta Stricker, Alice Peeters, Nancy Mary Siebers, Mary Rose Verdegan. Front row:

Kathy Feistel, Kathleen Endres, and Theresa Driessen.

We enjoyed celebrating two surprise birthday parties with Bev and Alice. Believe it when I say we can keep a secret. Both ladies were surprised by their family's desire to honor them. Bev was surprised as we showed up for Mass at St. Francis in Hollandtown and joined family for lunch after. Alice was unaware as we joined the congregation for Mass at St. Mary's Menasha and only realized something was up at the sign of peace as so many of her family and the Widows of Prayer were present. It was great to share stories with her family at lunch following the Mass.

Going forward, we will begin to gather for a monthly Wednesday morning session to grow in our vocation and for fellowship. Wisconsin winters are cold and dark, to add light, we hope to utilize our quiet time with a weekly Zoom Bible Study. No travel required, just good friendship and spiritual sharing.



Judy Keefe, Appleton Remote WP, made her second promise on Saturday, October 15th at St. John Cantius Church, Chicago, IL. Pictured from right to left, Rev. Joshua Caswell SJC, Judy Keefe and Alice Peeters.

Madison/Verona: Suzanne Dahms, Servant Leader

I know we are getting older and that Covid took a big bite out of us last year so we could not get out and go to church as we should have. But I think that our prospects are looking much better and we could try a little harder to get over to church while the weather is still good. So I am encouraging everyone to "put on a happy face" and get moving. Our priests need our prayers! Have a Wonderful Fall Season. And God bless you all!!

Community News

Hibbing, MN: Mary Wanhala, Servant Leader



At left is a picture of our Widows Easter Tea. Since one of our Widows of Prayer, Jean Walters, could not attend the Easter Tea, we

delivered an Easter gift to her personally (photo on right).



In May I gave a presentation about the Widows of Prayer to the ladies of St. Andrews Parish in Brainerd, MN. It is a great privilege to share information with neighboring parishes.



On the Feast of Corpus Christi, we delivered flowers to the cemetery where 6 priests from our community are buried. We prayed for them there and all deceased priests.

We will have a seminarian from our parish, Jacob Toma, ordained as a transitional deacon October 7th, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, at the Duluth Cathedral of the Our Lady of the Rosary.

Molalla, OR: Suzanne McKenzie, Servant Leader in Formation

Oregon Widows are now an independent Community. The big news for us here in Oregon is that we have three insignia wearing Widows of Prayer, so we are our own Community. There are two women who are discerning if God is calling them to this vocation.



Left: Joyce Wells of Portland making her First Promise with Suzanne McKenzie and Benedictine Abbot Jeremy Driscoll.

Right: Abbot Jeremy Driscoll receiving the Second Promise of Mary Jo Hettwer of Silverton, Oregon, at Mount Angel Abbey, with Suzanne McKenzie.



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

We have a new candidate, Rita Talamantes, from Fort Wayne. Fr. Wimal will be having an Ave Maria House Benefit on October 22 at St. Mary Mother of God Church. He is working very hard, and we ask all widows to pray for a good turnout.

On Wednesday, October 5th, Phyllis Martin made her Third Promises, and Rosemary Davis, Judy Reddin, Rose Rita Sovine, and Rosalie Waldon made their Second Promises. Please say a prayer for them.



Huntington, IN: Catherine Fitzgerald, Servant Leader

The Huntington Queen of Peace community hosted the Chapter visit of Alice and Carlotta on July 28. Eight members of the Fort Wayne Community of WP joined us. During our Mass, Janice Martin made her Life Promise and professed her Vows of Consecrated Life. Therese Joy Burkett made her First Promise as a member of the Widows of Prayer in Huntington. Both ladies had guests to celebrate with them. Also attending the Chapter meeting, Mass and celebration were the two new candidates, Elizabeth Ann Koch and Esther Dryer who traveled down from Elkhart.



(above photo: Catherine Fitzgerald, Rev. Anthony Steinacker, Therese Joy Burkette, Janice Martin, and Rev. Wilmar Jaysuria, Spiritual Director of Ft. Wayne Community.)

Spiritual Advisor Father Tony Steinacker also gave a special blessing to Mae Leedy and Catherine Fitzgerald who were celebrating 20 years as Widows of Prayer. Mae and Catherine along with Bea Shabitzter (deceased) made their first promise in May, 2002 at the annual retreat and Chapter Meeting in Appleton at Monte Alverno Retreat Center. After Mass the Memorial services for our 70 deceased Widows of Prayer was prayed.

After the Chapter meeting the Widows and guests enjoyed a delicious Italian luncheon provided by SS. Peter and Paul Parish for the ladies. The main course of Lasagna was cooked by Father Tony, accompanied by a marvelous Italian salad. The dessert was cookies baked by Father Tony. Even though everyone had a delightful day, about a dozen attendees contracted the milder strain of covid in the days after their celebration. Everyone was finally well by the middle of August.

Mary Therese Turner, our inquirer of the past year has finally found her personal documents and will be submitting them shortly to Alice. Hopefully, she will soon be making her First Promise.

Community News

Franklin/Milwaukee: Bernadine Ziemba, Servant Leader



We will greatly miss our community founder, Helen Krueger, who died August 1st at the age of 86. She was a wonderful person and even attended our Zoom meetings until the last couple of weeks. (photo of Helen on left.)

We are still meeting weekly via Zoom, thanks to Teresa Erdelt who sets them up for us. We meet on Wednesdays at 3 pm. We continue to look for a new meeting place, as it is so much nicer to meet in person. Thanks to Father Patrick Magnor at St. Alphonsus parish who tries to have a Mass for us usually once a month.

We also want to thank everyone who planned our Widows of Prayer retreat in September. It was great.



New Candidates

We are pleased to welcome and announce new Candidates to our Widows of Prayer:

Barbara Hullinger, Kansas City, MO

Paula Witek, Memphis, TN

Patricia Cummings, Phoenix, AZ

Esther Rose Dryer, Goshen, IN

Elizabeth Ann Koch, Elkhart, IN

Elizabeth Giffie, Nebraska City, NE

Barbara Giordano, Pittsburgh, PA

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.

Helen Krueger, August 1, 2022 — Franklin/Milwaukee

Gloria Gerardo, August 2022 — Fort Wayne, IN

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

Molalla/Portland, OR area — 503-949-3142

Our Retreat



The above photo was taken on Thursday, September 15th, just before we departed from the Schoenstatt Retreat Center. We enjoyed a wonderful 3-day retreat put together by our General Servant Leader. Thank you, Alice!

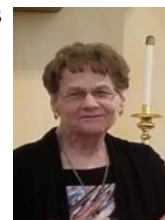
Everything was ready for us when we arrived Tuesday afternoon, and it was great visiting with other Widows of Prayer that we usually see only once a year on retreat. We traveled from Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. After Evening Prayer, we entered into the silence.

Wednesday was filled with prayer, meditation, food and conferences. Fr. Donald Calloway's video presentation on the Rosary was fascinating. His 400 page book *Champions of the Rosary* goes into even more detail. In the afternoon, Rev. Carlos Londono, Associate Pastor from Three Holy Women Parish in Milwaukee, gave a presentation on the *Real Presence* before he celebrated Mass for us.

Thursday included a Memorial Service for our deceased WP sisters and a renewal of our WP Consecration. Rev. Patrick Magnor, Associate Pastor at St. Alphonsus Parish in Greendale, gave a wonderful presentation on St. Therese of Lisieux before he celebrated Mass that morning. Both priests appreciate the Widows of Prayer and thanked us for our ministry. And we appreciate them for ministering to us on our retreat! Thank you!

From Our General Servant Leader

During this past year our new pastor Fr. Michael has been talking a great deal about thoughts, and how Satan tries to enter our minds with negative thoughts. His remedy is praising God each and every time one encounters that type of situation. Of course, you can get frustrated, overwhelmed or just give up on the idea right? But his approach is to stop the thought which then can possibly stop the sin. I thought about it and did indeed take that practice to heart.



I then discerned it's not just the negative thoughts, but the busy active thoughts in general. Are we so preoccupied with thoughts, that we push God out of our minds? How much peace and quiet do we allow ourselves in a given day? Do we let God rest within us? How much do we let God talk to us? It's an interesting question to ask ourselves how much for me? How much for God?

Someone remarked to me recently, that her grandmother mentioned, "If the devil can't get a person to go his way, then he will keep him busy". Whoa that's a statement! Most of us would say that we are busy. I'd call busy a trademark these days.

Cardinal Sarah in his book *The Power of Silence* quotes, "Man must make a choice, God or nothing, silence or noise."

Reaching heaven is silence. Through prayer, daily Mass whenever possible, and offering up those sacrifices truly puts us on the heavenly path. We can work on silent prayer exercises whether it's the Ignatian spirituality or St. Therese of Avila's attentiveness to the presence of God or some other method. This closeness is not meant only for our meditation/contemplation time, but also while we go about doing our daily duties. Cardinal Sarah sums it up by saying, "There is no place on earth where God is more present, than in the human heart. This heart is truly God's abode the temple of silence... the Father waits for his children in their own hearts."

Alice Peeters WP, General Servant Leader

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