



# The Widows' Mite

*Widows of Prayer*

Issue No. 35

Fall/Winter 2023

## 2023 Ordinations

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



**Diocese of Milwaukee, WI:** May 20 - Frs. Joseph Heit, Kevin Tanel, Michael Courchaine, Kenneth Anywanwu and Ryan Ackmann ordained by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi.



**Diocese of Duluth, MN:** June 23 – Fr. Jacob Toma ordained by Bishop Daniel Felton at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary.



**Diocese of Portland, OR:** June 23 – Frs. Anthony Hoangphan, Matthew Knight and Efrain Razo ordained by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample.

**Diocese of Madison, WI :** May 26 - Fr. Mark Foley and Fr. Simon Tipps ordained by Bishop Donald J. Hying.



**Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN;** June 3 – Frs. Brian Florin, Samuel Anderson, Robert Krisch, Zane Langenbrunner, David Langford, Jacob Schneider & Ryan Timossi ordained by Bishop Kevin Rhoades.

**Diocese of Green Bay, WI:** July 28, 2023 Fr. Ben Pribbenow 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, WI: Kathy Feistel, Servant Leader*

We continue with our Thursday gatherings for prayer, Mass, and adoration.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had a Day of Reflection at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. Father Tom Farrell, General Spiritual Director for the WP, was our celebrant and speaker for the day. About 40 people attended including women who were new to the Widows of Prayer. The photo on the left shows some of the attendees.



On June 26<sup>th</sup> we travelled to Denmark, WI to attend the midday prayer at the Carmelite Monastery. Later we enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Curran Spirituality Center.



Our chapter meeting was held July 19<sup>th</sup>. We ended the meeting joining St. Pius staff for mid-day prayer, followed by lunch at my house. The Appleton Community will review plans for 2024 at our next morning gathering. The Masses for Vocations are booked to the 2024 St Pius Calendar as is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass.

Our quarterly Mass for the recently deceased was held in August. September had some of our members attending the Annual Retreat at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha, WI. Others will make their retreat at a location closer to home.

We celebrated the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Widows of Prayer on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> with Mass at St Pius X for the Living and Deceased Members of the Widows of Prayer. As is tradition, we gathered for breakfast afterward.

### *Appleton Remote:*



Mary Rose Verdigan made her 2<sup>nd</sup> Promise on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Joseph Church in Sturgeon Bay, WI. Photo: Mary Rose on the left with Rev. Robert Stegman and Alice Peeters

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Hullinger and Paula Witek made their

1<sup>st</sup> Promise as Widows of Prayer at the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. Pictured L to R is Barbara Hullinger ( Kansas City MO), Alice Peeters, Rev. Tom Farrell and Paula Witek (Memphis, TN)



Carla Banks-Williams made her 2<sup>nd</sup> Promise at St. Catharine's Parish in Columbus, OH on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Pictured is Alice Peeters, Rev. John Morris and Carla Banks-Williams

## Community News

*Hibbing, MN: Mary Wanhala, Servant Leader*

Hibbing's Blessed Sacrament Parish Widows of Prayer Community continue to meet every Thursday morning for Mass and the rosary for those who are able to attend. After the rosary we meet for coffee, discussion, study and prayer. A new widow has joined in as a "friend of the Widows of Prayer". Newly added to the schedule is a monthly hour of reparation for ourselves and for priests and bishops.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jacob Toma was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Duluth. Fr. Jake was a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish. His father, Deacon Grant Toma, assisted at the ordination Mass held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary in Duluth. The Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Fr. Jake the following day, again with his father's assistance,



as well as many priests, seminarians and Bishop Felton.

Fr. Jake was awarded a certificate of proclamation, by Bishop Felton, of an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis.

Our widows are seeking a miracle for Bishop Peter Muhich, Rapid City Diocese, from Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk, as his cause is up for canonization, and two miracles are required to move the process forward. Bishop Muhich is a former and beloved long time pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish. Bishop Muhich has cancer and he is seeking prayers through the intercession of Nicholas Black Elk for himself and for Father Andrzej.

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

The Oregon Widows of Prayer continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays at Mt. Angel Abbey for Mass. We meet after Mass to pray for our priests. In August, Joyce Wells made her Second Promise. We had a reception for her after Mass. Abbot Jeremy assigned a new priest to us as spiritual director. Fr. John Paul Le, OSB, replaces Fr. Paul Thomas, OSB. Fr. Paul had been our director for several years. We are so grateful for his support and wonderful retreats. Fr. John Paul will begin his service by celebrating Mass for the anniversary of our foundation.

### ***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 are back to our regular meeting schedule, except for the month of August when Fr. Wimal, our Spiritual Director was gone and the super-hot weather kept us indoors. We have been meeting with the Huntington Widows of Prayer and studying the Eucharist in preparation for our members making their final promise.

Veronia Bartoch, our oldest WP, died on August 25th. She worked with me at the Soup Kitchen for 20 years. When I first told her about the Widows of Prayer, she wanted to join us. She also made a vow of consecration to Our Lord. She lived alone until 5 years ago when she moved into her son's home. She was a young 91! Rosalie Waldon has now moved into the St. Anne Home in Ft. Wayne.

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*Huntington, IN: Catherine Fitzgerald, Servant Leader*

For the past few months, we have been participating in various Eucharistic events in our various parishes, including celebrating the age-old devotion of Forty Hours.

We had a Day of Recollection at the Holy Family Oratory in Rome City on June 3. This was the Ordination Day of 7 priests for our Diocese. Rome City was where Sister Ephraim had visions of Our Lady of America in the 1950s. After the Mass, the pilgrims recited a Rosary of petition and thanksgiving for favors received, one of which was the Ordination of our new priests.

We had a day of Recollection August 19. The Celebrant of the Mass was our Bishop Rhoades, who had just returned from World Youth Day in Portugal. While there, our travelers and Bishop visited Fatima. Bishop reminded us in his homily that the children Saints Jacinta and Francesco showed a deep devotion to the Holy Eucharist. This was a good reflection for us Widows to increase our Adoration to our dear Eucharistic Jesus.

On August 17, Ann Koch and Esther Dyer made their first promise and received their insignia. Mary Therese Turner made her second promise. Several of the Fort Wayne WP community joined us for the Mass. After this

we held a memorial for all our dear departed Widows and renewed our Dedication and Consecration as Widows of Prayer. Then we went out to celebrate. The WPs in the photo are: Mary Lou Sohn,



Ginnie Salge, Ann Koch, Marilyn Brown, Judy Redden, Mary Therese Turner, Catherine Fitzgerald, Esther Dyer.

In photo on right, Ginnie, Mary Therese, Esther & Ann waiting patiently in church.



## Community News

*Franklin/Milwaukee, WI: Teresa Erdelt, Servant Leader*

A big thank you to everyone who prayed for my successful knee replacement. I am doing very nicely. Another thank you to Joyce Eesley and Jan Gilberto who kept our chapter meetings going while I was recovering.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, we have a new Spiritual Director, Fr. Chuck Wonch, SCJ. Fr. Patrick Magnor was assigned to a parish out of our area. We will greatly miss him. Fr. Chuck celebrates Mass once a month for us right at Sacred Heart Monastery Lake Apartments.

Four ladies from our Chapter attended the very fruitful retreat at the Schoenstatt Center in September. Thank you, Alice Peeters, for leading and organizing such a beautiful retreat.

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**Joy!** What a delightful word that is!

Joy should be the hallmark of who we are as Christians; joy should define the way we live. We have that on no less an authority than Jesus Himself, who said at the Last Supper: "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

(John 15:11)

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## New Candidates

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

Margaret Rewolinski, Milw/Franklin, WI Community

Megan Tonkin, Coorparoo Queensland Australia

(Remote Appleton, WI Community)

Dorothy Mueller Appleton, WI Community

**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.**

***Veronica Bartoch, August 25, 2023 – Fort Wayne, IN  
May E. Milbauer, March 11, 2023 - Milwaukee, WI remote***

For more information about the *Widows of Prayer*:

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

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

Appleton, WI area – 920-284-9476

Franklin/Milwaukee WI area – 414-265-6298

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



We enjoyed another wonderful retreat at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha September 12-14th.

After we registered on Tuesday afternoon, we had time to catch up with each other's lives, and share supper. We entered into the silence of the retreat after Evening Prayer. A video presentation on *Full of Grace* ended this day.

The next two days started with Mass, breakfast & Morning Prayer. Fr. Carlos Londono, Associate Pastor from Three Holy Women Parish in Milwaukee, was unable to keep his speaking commitment in person, but recorded a video presentation on the *Holy Mass*. After that, he connected with us direct from Columbia, South America, for a video Question & Answer session. Additional video presentations were enjoyed in the afternoon. Evening Prayer was followed by a Memorial Service for our deceased WP sisters and a renewal of our WP Consecration.

Thursday morning's presentation by Deacon Joe Senlaub on *Widows and Courage* was outstanding! He even guided us through a course on *Lectio Divina*.

Thanks and appreciation to Alice, our General Servant Leader, who organized the retreat. We realize it takes a lot of time, effort and organization skills to create and set up a terrific schedule.

## From Our General Spiritual Advisor

"I want to reaffirm to the Widows of Prayer of just how important their prayers for priests are.

I firmly believe that it is through the prayers of many people that the wonderful fruits of pastoral care are born. Once the stage is set and all '*prayer warriors*' are in motion – **of which the Widows of Prayer are a part** – God begins to minister through his priests.

*Because of your prayer* – the priest calls down the Holy Spirit and speaks the words of consecration with hands extended during the Holy Sacrifice of the mass. *Because of your prayer* – the priest rubs oil in the hands of the infirmed and calls upon God's mercy during the Anointing of the sick. *Because of your prayer* – the priest prays the words of Absolution and makes the sign of the cross over the penitent as he brings peace to their soul during the sacrament of reconciliation. *Because of your prayer* – the priest proclaims the Gospel, interprets the word, and challenges the people to obey God's laws during the liturgy of the word. *Because of your prayer* – babies are baptized during the sacrament of Baptism and couples are united in marriage during the sacrament of Matrimony and the sorrowful are comforted and the dead put to rest during the rite of Christian burial. *All because of your prayer. Because of your prayer*, the priest finds peace in his ministry, love in his parishioners and joy in his heart.

The Widows of Prayer have a wonderful charism, a holy charism, a God given charism. It was given to set the world on fire. Keep the fire burning so it spreads into all the hearts of God's chosen ones, and that the words of Pope Benedict XVI will always hold true for it is '*through prayer the wonderful fruits of pastoral care are born and will continue to be born.*' **All Because of Your Prayer.**"

(Excerpt taken from Widows' Mite Spring 2012)

Fr. Tom Farrell, General Spiritual Advisor, Widows of Prayer



### 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)