



# The Widow's Mite

*Widows of Prayer*

Issue No. 37

Fall/Winter 2024

## 2024 Ordinations

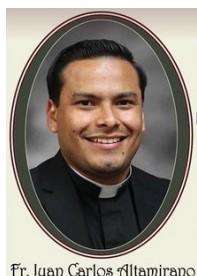
*With praise and thanksgiving to almighty God, we joyfully celebrate our newly ordained priests:*



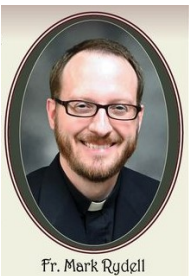
**Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI:** May 18 – Fathers Zachary Galante, Nicholas Dhein, Charles Luke, Craig Richter, Denny Jacob, David Sweeney, Dennis Beltre, Dominic Lazzaroni, and Kevin Durand ordained by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi.



**Diocese of Columbus, OH:** May 18  
Bishop Earl Fernandes ordained Fathers Tyler Carter, Daniel Colby, Jason Fox, Michael Haemmerle and David Johnstone at Columbus St. Andrew Church.



Fr. Juan Carlos Altamirano

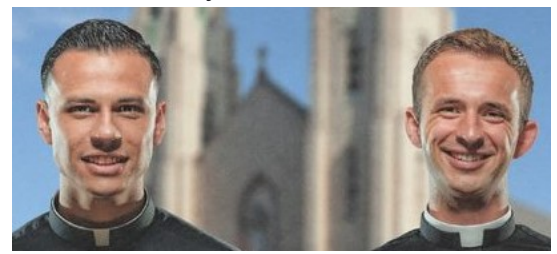


Fr. Mark Rydell

**Diocese of Green Bay, WI:** May 25 – Fr. Juan Carlos Altamirano Herrera & Fr. Mark Rydell ordained by Bishop David L. Ricken at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

*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.*

## Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN; June 1



Fr. Oscar Duarte and Fr. Caleb Kruse ordained by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at Cathedral of Immaculate Conception.

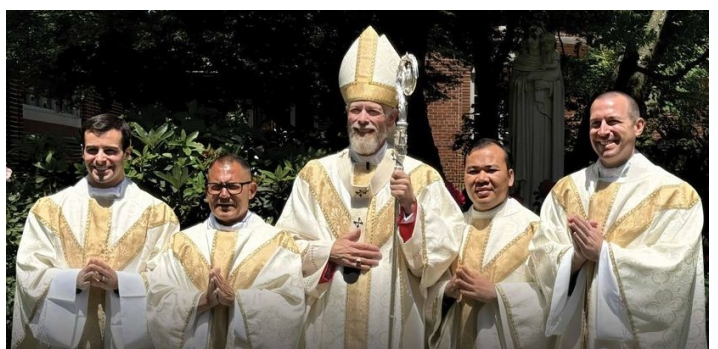
## Diocese of Madison, WI: June 7

Congratulations to Fr. David Drefcinski and Fr. Anthony Kersting who were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Donald J. Hying at St. Maria Goretti Church.



## Diocese of LaCrosse, WI: June 22

Father David Nowicki was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Gerard Battersby June 25 at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral.



**Diocese of Portland, OR:** June 22 – Frs. Brent Dur Schmidt, James Ladd, Justin Echevarria, and Dominic Nanh Nguyden, SSD ordained by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample.

## NEW OFFICIAL PRAYER OF THE WIDOWS OF PRAYER

God the Father,

I offer you the rest of my time on earth that I may serve you with love and come to eternal life.

May my husband be blessed on his journey in eternity and everyone in my family be saved.

Holy Spirit, be a comfort to all widows, especially the newly bereaved.

Jesus, my bridegroom, savior of my soul, delight of my heart, help me.

Mary, exalted widow, mother of the Church, my model and intercessor, pray for me.

St. Joseph, protector of Mary and the child Jesus and helper of widows, guide me in the trials of daily life.

As a widow, may I be a spiritual mother to all I meet today and every day.

All you widow-saints, pray for me

St. Monica, pray for me

St. Paula, pray for me

St Elizabeth of Hungary, pray for me

Bd. Angela of Foligno, pray for me

St. Catherine of Siena, pray for me

St Elizabeth of Portugal, pray for me

St. Bridget of Sweden, pray for me

St. Rita of Cascia, pray for me

St. Frances of Rome, pray for me

St. Catherine of Genoa, pray for me

St. Jane de Chantal, pray for me

Bd. Marie of the Incarnation, pray for me

St. Louise de Marillac, pray for me

Bd. Marguerite d'Youville, pray for me

St. Elizabeth Seton, pray for me

Servant of God, Praxes Fernandez, pray for me

Bd. Conchita Cabrera de Armida, pray for me

All other widows now in heaven, pray for me

My God, let me know and love you,

So that I may find my happiness in you.

Since I cannot fully achieve this on earth, help me to improve daily until I may do so to the full.

Enable me to know you ever more on earth, so that I may know you perfectly in heaven.

Enable me to love you ever more on earth, so that I may love you perfectly in heaven.

In that way my joy may be great on earth, and perfect with you in heaven.

O God of truth, grant me the happiness of heaven so that my joy may be full in accord with your promise.

In the meantime, let my mind dwell on that happiness, my tongue speak of it, my heart pine for it, my mouth pronounce it, my soul hunger for it, my flesh thirst for it, and my entire being desire it until I enter through death into the joy of my Lord forever. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father Paul Thomas OSB, JCD, and PhD

## Congratulations



On April 20, 2024, Carla Banks Williams made her final promise and Vows of Consecration at St. Catharine's Parish in Columbus, Ohio. Pictured are Alice Peters, WP, Carla Banks Williams, WP and Fr. Patrick Toner.

On May 20, 2024, Barbara Hullinger from Merriam Woods, MO (front left) and Paula Witek from Memphis, TN (front right) traveled to Wisconsin to make their 2nd Promises at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. Also pictured in back row are Deacon Jeff Prickette, Alice Peeters, WP General Servant Leader, and Fr. Tom Farrell, Spiritual Director of the Widows of Prayer.



June 25, 2024 — Mary Jo Hettwer and Joyce Wells made their final promise at Mt. Angel Abbey in Mt. Angel, Oregon, (pictured with Suzanne McKenzie, center, Servant Leader). Fr. John Paul Le, OSB witnessed their promises.

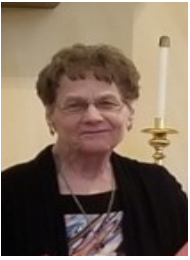
September 4th, 2024 — In the Huntington, IN community, remote members Esther Dyer (center) and Ann Koch made their second promises, witnessed by Fr. Craig Borchard at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart, IN.



September 18, 2024 — Dorothy Mueller from the Appleton Community made her First Promise at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center while on the Widows of Prayer Retreat. Pictured are Fr. Carlos Londono, Dorothy Mueller, WP, and Alice Peeters, WP.

## From Our General Servant Leader

The spring and summer months bring so much beauty to mother earth as well as the Widows of Prayer with their lovingly dedication and activities.



On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Appleton Widows of Prayer Community led by Kathy Feistel, hosted a day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Champion, WI. About 35 women gathered to attend Mass celebrated by Father Tom Farrell (WP General Spiritual Director) and assisted by Deacon Jeff Prickette (WP Board Member).

Paula Witek, Memphis TN and Barbara Hullinger, Merriam Woods, MO made their 2<sup>nd</sup> Promise. Congratulations, Ladies! Father Tom later gave a wonderful talk about Food for the Journey. Later there was time to spend on the grounds, chapel, and gift shop.

In June, Alice Peeters WP General Servant leader travelled to Oregon where Mary Jo Hettwer and Joyce Wells make their third promise while Father John Paul Lee OSB and Suzanne McKenzie, Servant Leader, witnessed the promises. Awesome, Ladies! A chapter meeting including refreshments was then held for the community. By the way, you can hear an interview with Suzanne McKenzie on the Morning Blend Show of August 13, 2024 <https://tunein.com/podcasts/Religion--Spirituality-Podcasts/The-Morning-Blend-with-David-and-Brenda-p1843489/?topicId=412951196>

The Hibbing MN Community kept on track with their weekly rosary and Mass along with a Zoom Chapter meeting. With two recently deceased members they are regrouping and getting interest in some potential new candidates.

In August the Milwaukee/Franklin Community held a gathering at the Sacred Heart Monastery of the Lake library. Mass, the annual chapter meeting, a video of Mother Olga Yaqob, on Eucharistic Miracles, a delicious dinner with great conversation, and we can't forget the beautiful centerpieces all added to a truly great day. Thank you, Teri Erdelt, Joyce, Jan and Community.

Our Huntington and Ft. Wayne Communities were on the go and attended a Healing Mass at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington, IN. Bishop Kevin Rhoades was the celebrant. In addition to a wonderful homily the two Widow of Prayer Communities renewed their dedication as Widows of Prayer. After their renewal Bishop Kevin gave them a very, very special blessing. On September 4<sup>th</sup> the Huntington Community was privileged to witness Ann Koch and Elizabeth Rose Dyer make their 2<sup>nd</sup> Promise. Beautiful dedication Ladies!

**As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Widows of Prayer celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Widows of**

*General Servant Leader Report Contd.*

**Prayer with Mass and a renewal of our dedication. Our gratitude to Mary Reardon WP Foundress (Dec.) and to Bishop David Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay for giving us this wonderful opportunity to be Widows of Prayer.**

*Alice Peeters WP, General Servant Leader*



Milwaukee/Franklin Chapter Meeting August 15<sup>th</sup>. Back row LtoR Teri Erdelt WP, Fr. Jim Brackin SCJ, Josephine Janezic WP, Alice Peeters WP. Front row: Karen Pierce, Rose Marie Peyovich WP, Joyce Eesley WP, Margaret Rewolinski WP, Jeanette Gilberto WP.

## New Candidates

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

Mary J. Bartrom, Huntington, IN Community  
Peg Handwork, Huntington, IN Community  
Astrid Hensel, Fort Wayne, IN Community  
Laurine Griesbach, Appleton, WI Community  
Theresa Schreck, 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.**

***Mary Therese Turner, April 28, 2024 – Huntington, IN***  
***Suzanne Dahms, May 8, 2024 – Madison, WI***  
***Judy Reddin, June 25, 2024 – Fort Wayne, IN***  
***Ginny Gibson, August 5, 2024 – Fort Wayne, IN***

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 – 414-427-0020

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



Photo: L to R back row Nancy Mary Siebers WP, Theresa Schreck, Teresa (Teri) Erdelt WP, Dorothy Mueller WP, Joyce Easley WP, Alice Buechner WP, Josephine Janezic WP. Front row, Alice Peeters WP, Mary Wanlass WP and Karen Pierce.

The 2024 Widows of Prayer Annual Retreat was a memorable one on so many levels. The weather was beautiful, the staff at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center was so helpful to make our stay one of comfort and exceedingly pleasant. From the time we arrived on September 17<sup>th</sup> to our departure on the 19<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed meeting up with our Widows of Prayer from other areas. After evening prayers on the 17<sup>th</sup>, we had the option to watch the movie of St. Joseph of Cupertino with his feast day the following day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

On the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Father Carlos Londono gifted us with a wonderful talk on the 4 R's of Lectio Divina. They are Reading – rereading the passage, reflecting on what the passage had to say to us; Responding – how God has spoken to us and respond back and finally Resting in the presence of God.

### *Our Retreat contd.*

After Father Carlos' homily at Mass, Dorothy Mueller made her first promise as a Widow of Prayer. It brought back memories of our own first promises.

After lunch, Deacon James Starke gave a very thought-filled and heart-tug talk on "All Roads Lead Thru the Cross". This was a personal encounter that he and his wife experienced and how they overcame the insurmountable crosses that they encountered. This led to some questions and conversations by our ladies. How do we see others in the face of trials? How do we see ourselves? These and other questions led to some interesting aspects of suffering.

With time for silent prayer and meditation we could utilize some of the ideas we had just heard from Father Carlos and Deacon James.

Later in the afternoon, Father Dan Zaleski spoke by way of the WhatsApp and urged how important that prayer is for Priests. He cited various situations where Priests are in dire need of those prayers. He was grateful for our apostolate.

The following day, because of a confusion on receiving a video we had to substitute another video that Judith Keefe found interesting about Pontius Pilate. The video told how Pontius Pilate had a conversion at the foot of the cross. Certainly, this was new to many of us. Some churches such as the Ethiopian Church, claim him a saint. It was a video that brought out a whole different aspect on the man who condemned Jesus.

Father Buya, who offered Mass on the 19<sup>th</sup> was so grateful for the Widows of Prayer in their apostolate. We truly appreciated his time in allowing us to attend Mass in the morning.



### 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)