



The Widow's Mite

Widows of Prayer

Issue No. 39

Fall/Winter 2025

2025 Ordinations

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



Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI: May 17 – Fathers Aaron Siehr, Brady Gagne and Timothy Sanchez were ordained at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist by Archbishop Jeffrey S. Grob.

Diocese of Columbus OH: May 17 – Bishop Earl Fernandes ordained Frs. Kevin Girardi, Joseph Rolwing and Samuel Severance at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.



Archdiocese of Chicago, IL: May 17 – Bishop Lawrence J. Sullivan, vicar general of the Archdiocese, ordained Fr. Cristian Garcia & Fr. Kevin Menard at Holy Name Cathedral.

Diocese of Lincoln, NE: May 24 - Frs. David Tines and Isaac Wahlmeier were ordained by Bishop James Conley at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ.



Diocese of Madison, WI: May 30 - Frs. Ryan Ruhle, Bradley Grobbel, David Jaramillo, and William Kearley were ordained by Bishop Donald Hying at St. Maria Goretti Church.



Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN: June 1



Fr. Andrew Barnes and Fr. Nicholas Monnin were ordained by Bishop Kevin Rhoades at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.



Diocese of Green Bay, WI: June 28 – Fr. Nicholas Stellpflug was ordained by Bishop David Ricken at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Diocese of Portland, OR: June 28 – Fr. Anselm Flores, OSB was ordained by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample at Mount Angel Abby Church.



Diocese of Venice, FL: July 12 – Frs. Joseph Doherty, Jacob Gwynn & Patrick Long were ordained by Bishop Frank Dewane at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

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.

General Spiritual Advisors



A special Thank You to Fr. Tom Farrell who is retiring as our General Spiritual Advisor, effective September 30, 2025. Fr. Tom has been the General Spiritual Advisor for the Widows of Prayer the past 18 years! He had been Pastor at St. Pius in Appleton from 2005 until 2017, when he was transferred to

Shawano. He is now the Pastor of Stella Maris Parish and oversees 5 other parishes in northern Door County. As you can imagine, his work schedule leaves little time for other activities. We will greatly miss him and are eternally grateful for all he has done for us including sharing his wisdom with us. We will continue to remember Fr. Tom in our prayers.

Welcome to Fr. James Jugenheimer who has been appointed our new General Spiritual Advisor, effective October 1, 2025.

Fr. Jugenheimer has been the Pastor of St. Pius Parish in Appleton since 2018. Prior to that, he was the Pastor of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Oshkosh. His priestly roots are actually found on the east coast where he served 18 years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, with 12 of those years as a Religion teacher in a Catholic High School.

In his "free" time, Fr. Jim likes going on long walks but especially enjoys working on his cabin. He also likes to make ice cream! He has made ice cream for the past several years for the St. Pius Parish Picnic. Matter of fact, a small freezer is kept in the church narthex and Father keeps it stocked with small containers of ice cream!



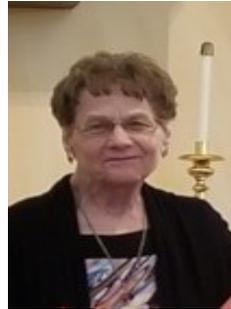
Livestreaming Each Thursday

Fr. Jim is now livestreaming the 4 pm Thursday evening Adoration; Liturgy of the Hours at 5:10 followed by Benediction; Mass at 5:30 pm. The third Thursday the Mass intention is for vocations to the priesthood & religious life. Go to: www.youtube.com/@st.piusxappletonparish378

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.

From Our General Servant Leader



Soon the leaves will be turning colors and falling to the ground. The weather will be cooler and going to cold. For many of us, we'll stay indoors rather than sitting outside.

Life goes in circles as do the seasons. So, I am nearing the end of my season as the Widow of Prayer General Servant Leader. I have grown in this position. I have become confident and comfortable in doing the various tasks.

It's been a trip, journey, or better yet, a pilgrimage. It's been a true joy seeing the faces and hearts of our Candidates making their first promise and witnessing the vows from the more "seasoned" Widows of Prayer. It has been a true blessing, and words are inadequate. Listening to our Widows of Prayer in their discussion on Meet & Chat gives me humbleness as to the inspirations I receive. What a chest of treasures!

Packing my suitcase for another trip keeps me young at heart as well as learning something new on the computer. Yes, it's the busyness, but most importantly taking that special time for Jesus. I not only kept my adoration hours, but added more, just because I needed Him and He welcomed me. I will miss the activity, but I also yearn for silence and hope to joyfully welcome a slower-paced life, so my Master doesn't have to call more than once to get my attention.

I welcome the new General Servant Leader and promise to give her a helping hand when needed.

Thank you Blessed Trinity, Our Holy Mother, my Guardian Angel and the saints for your guidance and inspiration. Thank you, family, for giving me the time to do my work. Thank you, Widows of Prayer, for your patience with me but most of all, for being you.

All for God, my family and the Widows of Prayer.
It's "All or Nothing" Sister Clare Theresa Crocette

Alice Peeters WP, General Servant Leader

2025 Election of General Officers

Thank you to our three nominees who agreed to be a candidate for the 2025 Election of Officers:

General Servant Leader – Carlotta Stricker, WP

General Asst. Servant Leader – Suzanne McKenzie, WP

General Secretary/Treasurer – Paula Witek, WP

Thanks to everyone who returned their ballot. After the ballots are opened and counted on September 30th, the election will be complete. The new officers will hold their office for the next three (3) years.

Congratulations



On May 13, 2025, Veronica Conklin from the Molalla/Portland, OR Community, made her First Promise and accepted the insignia from Suzanne McKenzie, Servant Leader, while Rev. John Paul Le, OSB, MDiv Mount Angel Abbey, OR looks on.



On August 16, 2025, Elizabeth Giffie WP made her final Promise and Vows at St. Mary Church in Dawson, NE. Pictured L to R Elizabeth Giffie, Rev. Tony Bedient and Alice Peeters., General Servant Leader.

May 19, 2025, at Our Lady of Champion Shrine, First Promises were made by Theresa Schreck, Neenah, WI and Marie Czlusniak, Marlette MI. (remote Appleton Community). Pictured on left is Kathy Feistel, Servant Leader, Appleton Community and Alice Peeters, General Servant Leader on right. Fr. Tom Farrell, not pictured, witnessed the Promises.



On September 11, 2025, during our retreat at the Schoenstatt Center, Margaret Rewolinski (left) made her second Promise, pictured with Rev. Gideon Buya and Teresa Erdelt, Servant Leader Milwaukee/Franklin Community.



May 19, 2025, at Our Lady of Champion Shrine, third Promises & Vows were made by Barbara Hullinger (Kansas City, MO) and Paula Witek (Memphis, TN) both Appleton Remote. Father Tom Farrell General Spiritual Director and Alice Peeters, WP General Servant Leader, witnessed the Promises and Vows.

May 22, 2025, at St. Peter & Paul Church, Huntington, IN. First Promises were made by Astrid Hensel and Margaret Handwork (back row far right) standing next to Fr. Tony Steinacker and Catherine Fitzgerald, Servant Leader. Seated (l-r) Mae Leedy, WP and Virginia Salge, WP.



Final Promises and vows were made by Ann (Elizabeth) Koch and Esther Rose Dryer at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Huntington, IN on July 23, 2025. Pictured L to R Catherine Fitzgerald WP, Huntington Servant Leader, Ann (Elizabeth) Koch, Esther Rose Dyer and Rev. Tony Steinacker.



New Candidates

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

- Christine Land, Milwaukee/Franklin Community
- Glenna Bradshaw, Memphis, TN, Appleton Remote
- Patricia Krych, Appleton Community

It is with deepest sympathy that we say goodbye to our Sister who has moved on to her final resting place with God. May she rest in peace.

Rosaline Banana, July 9, 2025 – Franklin/Milwaukee, WI

For more information about the *Widows of Prayer*:

website: www.widowsofprayer.org

or e-mail: 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



The weather was pleasant as we entered the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha, WI. Getting to renew old friendships and meeting new women was a sheer delight at the dinner on the 9th of September.

The inspirational movie of St. John of the Cross depicted St. John in his desire to draw closer to Jesus no matter what the cost. It showed his focus and determination.

In keeping with the theme, Climbing Higher in a Chaotic World, Father John LoCoco explained that prayer, leading a sacramental life and detachment from the world, would allow us to climb that spiritual ladder.

Ronda Chervin, Catholic author of 88 books including "A Widow's Walk" answered questions about widowed saints who many of them experienced difficulties as we do. When asked about her understanding of these widowed saints, she replied that she read much about them as well as the experiences she herself endured.

Having daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours and on one occasion having it chanted by Mercedes Martin and Paula Hand, was a beautiful experience.

Our Retreat contd.

Fr. Gideon Buya also kept with the theme of climbing higher by saying that suffering, trusting in God, and charity by seeing the goodness in God through others will bring us closer to God. After his homily at Mass on Thursday, Margaret Rewolinski (Franklin/Milwaukee Community) made her 2nd Promise as a Widow of Prayer.

The time went all too fast and before you know it, we were saying goodbye. But the lessons learned, and the friendships established will long be in our hearts.

Retraction

We deeply apologize for not acknowledging Dr. Ronda Chervin's work on the Widow's Prayer. The official prayer was published in our Fall/Winter 2024 edition of the Widows' Mite. Credit was given to Rev. Paul Thomas. We later learned that Dr. Ronda wrote the prayer up to "All other widows now in heaven, pray for me." Father Paul concluded the prayer.

Chapter Meetings



Huntington/Ft. Wayne IN Communities July 23, 2025.

The Milwaukee/Franklin Community celebrated their annual Day of Reflection and Chapter Meeting on August 19, 2025.



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