

***IS CHRIST'S INVITATION  
MEANT FOR 'ME' TODAY?***

Women and men of the Cleveland Diocese have heard the gentle call of Jesus, and have united under the patronage of St. Teresa of Avila, to make PRAYER for VOCATIONS their apostolate; they are authorized by the Bishop of our diocese and are under the guidance of the Diocesan Vocation Office.

***HOW IS THIS ACCOMPLISHED?***

The mission of the Avilas is fulfilled through weekly Holy Hours as members pray for an increase of vocations to the vowed, religious, and ordained priesthood; they also pray for the perseverance for those who have already consecrated their lives to God.

***WHY?***

St. Teresa, foundress of the Discalced Carmelites, was born in Avila, Spain, on March 28, 1515; she was named 'Doctor of the Church' by Pope Paul VI on September 27, 1970. Her special gift to the Church in our time is to teach us to pray, and to persevere in the conviction that prayer is the foundation for all apostolic work. Following in her spirit, Avilas are called by virtue of their membership in the family of God, to pray for those whom God calls to serve the Church in the vowed, religious and ordained ways of life.



*"The Harvest is abundant  
but the laborers are few;  
so ask the master of the  
harvest to send out laborers,  
for his harvest."*

*Mt. 9:35-38*

*"There is but one road  
which reaches God  
and that is  
PRAYER;  
if anyone shows you  
another, you are  
being deceived"*

*....St. Teresa of Avila*

## Avilas live in the spirit of St. Teresa of Avila through

### PRAYER

Consider prayer to be the first and most effective means of promoting vocations. *"I'm not asking you to do anything more than look at Him...your spouse never takes His eyes off you." (The Way of Perfection)*

### SERVICE

Endeavor to create a spirit of zeal for this lay apostolate work in your parish, community and throughout the diocese. *"The Lord doesn't look so much at the greatness of our works as at the love with which they are done." (The Interior Castle)*

### SACRIFICE

Value sacrifice as an integral aspect of life, and a form of prayer. *"Fix your eyes on the crucified and everything will become small for you. If His majesty showed us His love by means of such works and frightful torments, how is it you want to please Him only with words" (The Interior Castle)*

### STUDY

Conscientious study of the vocation to vowed and ordained ways of life is necessary in order to understand it and explain to others *"I would never tire of trying to explain to them if I thought I could in some way manage to do so; thus I will say a thousand foolish things in order that I might at times succeed and that we might give great praise to the Lord." (The Interior Castle)*

## There are two forms of membership in the Avilas

Active Avila Members commit themselves to make a Holy Hour once a week. Active members attend Mass, Holy Hour and luncheon meetings five (5) times a year and pay annual dues which include payment for luncheons. Active members receive the newsletter; have a voice in all actions of the organization, and assist the Diocesan Vocation Office when needed.



Sustaining Avila Members commit themselves to make a Holy Hour once a week. Sustaining members pay one-half the annual dues, attend luncheon meetings whenever possible (with a nominal charge for lunch), and will receive the newsletter. This level of membership is designed to make it possible for those who are unable to attend meetings for health or other reasons, but would still like to be a member of the Avila organization. Sustaining members do not enjoy voting privileges.

Return this application to become an AVILA to:  
Diocesan Vocation Office  
Center for Pastoral Leadership  
28700 Euclid Avenue  
Wickliffe, OH 44092

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME AN AVILA MEMBER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_