

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-SIXTH YEAR VOLUME VI

JULY, AUGUST 2018



**Have a Happy Summer!
See you in September.**

Prayer Moms and Dads Needed!!

With our new class of priests, we need more prayer Moms and Dads. Also, several prayer Moms and Dads are no longer able to be active. If you are not yet a prayer Mom or Dad, please consider it. The only requirements are to pray, pray, pray. Greeting cards a few times a year: ordination anniversary, birthday, Christmas, Easter - are also appreciated, and an occasional word of encouragement. Your correspondence will always be signed, *Your Avila Prayer Mom or Dad*. Your identity remains unknown - you are forever anonymous.

You need not be an Active Member Avila to be a prayer Mom or Dad, and existing prayer Moms and Dads can take a second prayer Son.

This is a very rewarding role, a secret between you and your God to benefit someone who will become special to you. Please contact Sylvia Profenna at 216-486-5051 or spofenna@hotmail.com to add your name and heartfelt prayers to this holy work.

President's Corner

Pray, Pray, Pray

As Avilas, our main purpose is our call to prayer. Our weekly Holy Hour is the foundation of all we do in praying for vocations and for those in the ordained and vowed religious life. Our patron, St. Teresa of Avila, described prayer in this way, "Prayer is nothing more than spending a long time alone with the One I know loves me." Even though St. Teresa herself struggled in prayer, one of her attributes is to "persevere in prayer". She said, "We must have a determined determination to never give up prayer." When she struggled with prayer she prayed to the Holy Spirit as she was directed by a priest.

St. Teresa had a great love for Jesus in His sufferings. She had a mystical experience of "Ecce Homo" when she saw the image of Jesus with His crowned Head. This moved her to a greater love for Jesus. St. Teresa had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. She reminded everyone to wear their Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel as a sign of their love and consecration to her. Finally, St. Teresa had a tender love for St. Joseph. She attributed her recovery from a serious illness to his intercession. Every new convent that she established she gave the name of SAN JOSE—Saint Joseph!

With St. Teresa of Avila, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph let us all continue to ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit to assist us in our life of prayer to be faithful and persevering in our relationship with the One who loves us.

**Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is July 16.
Check our Avila Website for more Avila News:
avilasleveland.weebly.com**

*Virginia Kovacina
Avila President*

MAY AVILA GATHERING

Our speaker, Father James Cosgrove, credited the prayers of the Avilas with a role in his vocation, next to the work of the Holy Spirit. He urged attendees of our May meeting to pray for others like him.

"Pray for the intercession of Mary and the working of the Holy Spirit to aid any man or woman who most needs help in discerning a religious vocation," he said.

After his ordination last May, Father Cosgrove became parochial vicar of St. Christopher in Rocky River. He is now undertaking an assignment at St. Clare in Lyndhurst. He said he is sad to leave his current parish family, but eager to meet a new one.

"I love being a priest!" he exclaimed.

(Continued)



In a candid and engrossing account, Father Cosgrove related his path to the priesthood. He described a "Wonder Years" childhood in Garfield Heights as the middle child in a family of three kids. A parishioner of St. Martin de Tours in Maple Heights, he attended its school from kindergarten through eighth grade.

For a first or second grade assignment, he prepared an "All About Me" poster that included what he wanted to be when he grew up. Although he drew himself as a priest, he felt no stirrings of a vocation during the years that followed. Other people realized he might have that special calling, however. When he was in fourth or fifth grade, individual parishioners sometimes asked if he was thinking about the priesthood. "That is a seed worth planting," Father Cosgrove said. "Never underestimate the power of suggestion. If you see it, say it! You won't be the only one."

After graduating from Trinity High School, he earned a biology degree at the University of Dayton, hoping for an adventurous career as a storm chaser. The priesthood still wasn't on his radar, but he participated in campus ministry and enjoyed social service projects. Returning to the Cleveland diocese, he lived in St. Charles Borromeo parish, worked at the Cleveland Clinic and enrolled in an accelerated nursing program at Ursuline College. Despite so much outer activity, he felt an internal emptiness. He began dropping into Church for 15 minutes on random weekdays to nurture his spiritual life. This led to Holy Hours before the Eucharist that merely underlined what he calls a void in his heart. He was flooded with memories of people who had suggested he consider the priesthood. Then, after Mass one Sunday, a stranger asked him if he was a seminarian.

Finally resolved to get some information about the seminary, he made two trips there – but the future priest couldn't bring himself to leave the parking lot. Both times, he drove away without even entering the building. Fortunately, he eventually did meet with Father McCandless. Three months later, he completed the application, quit his job and nursing school and broke up with a girlfriend. These decisions brought lasting peace.

"Gratitude is proof we are doing God's will," Father Cosgrove said of his life since ordination. Father prays for the Avilas every day, and he advised us to never be discouraged in our mission to support vocations. "Prayer works! Prayer matters!" Father Cosgrove said.

A Personal "Thank You" from AM 1260 The Rock

AM 1260 The Rock asked the Avilas to help man the phones during the Catholic radio station's April Spirit Drive fundraiser. Several Avilas joined dozens of other volunteers in answering the telephones and taking pledges during the campaign. Bernadette Boguski, The Rock's executive director, attended our May meeting to personally thank the organization. The station will promote the Avilas mission from time to time on the air.

2017-2018 Avila Roster Corrections/Additions

Beverly Beischlag, 11500 Huffman Road, #113, Parma, 44130—440-842-6457



Dominic Avenoso, father of Mary

Beverly Beischlag

Doug Edwards, brother of Ann

Nancy Hach

***Leona, daughter of
Mary Ann Trask***

Adeline Trzaska

***Danielle, daughter of
Marlyn Tunnell***



***May the dear Lord Jesus,
who went about doing good and
healing all, bless all of our Avila mem-
bers and their families and friends who
are sick, and let them recover their
health soon. Amen.***



***Ruth Merriman on the death
of her husband,
Ty Merriman.***

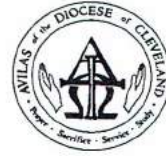
***May the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace. Amen.***

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

At the meeting, Father Michael McCandless announced that there might be as many as 17 new men entering Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries this fall. He asked us to pray for three men who remain undecided in taking this step. He also requested prayers for a young woman who is discerning a vocation to religious life.

God Bless!

***Jerri Donohue, Publicity Chairperson
Susan Federico, Scripture Resource***



"There is but one road which reaches God and that is PRAYER;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived." Saint Teresa of Avila

July 2018

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups
in your Holy Hour this month:

July	1, 2018	Order of St. Basil the Great (Uniontown) (OSBM)
July	8, 2018	Order of St. Benedict (OSB)
July	15, 2018	Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA (OSB)
July	22, 2018	Bishops of the Diocese of Cleveland
July	29, 2018	Christ the Bridegroom Monastery
August	5, 2018	Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (SSS)

MONTH OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

There is a particularly emotional moment in *The Passion of the Christ* when Pilate's wife, Claudia, silently brings fresh linens to Mary, who had just seen her Son scourged to the brink of death. A look passes between the two women, then Mary turns to the task of cleaning the blood-soaked stones, retrieving as much as possible of the infinitely precious contents of Jesus' sacred veins. The value of each drop of that saving blood was incomparable to all the world's gold and silver. From Holy Thursday night in the garden to the unspeakably violent death of Jesus, He shed every single drop of His blood, though one drop would have been enough to redeem the world.

In a conference given on the Precious Blood of Jesus, Servant of God Father John Hardon said, "... the Church infallibly defined: Every drop of Christ's Blood in the Agony in the Garden, every drop He shed on Calvary ... every drop of that Blood was adorable."

Jesus offered Himself up for all of us. Peter knew this when he said, "(You) were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb" (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Jesus Christ was born into this world, lived, loved and suffered. When His heart broke on Calvary and blood poured from His veins, He was voluntarily laying down His life for you and for me. "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again" (John 10:18[a]).

One drop of His blood would have sufficed, yet He shed all His blood to the point that the last drops were mixed with water that left His Side when Longinus pierced His Heart with a lance. He wanted to hold nothing back in order to redeem us. We must believe with everything we are that His Precious Blood can cleanse and save us. "Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they may become white as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

The Blood of Christ that was shed in streets, Pilate's palace and on Calvary, is found entirely in the Holy Eucharist. Thus, as we receive the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we should remember this: we are receiving this Precious Blood that was shed for us. Let us receive the Eucharist with great confidence and joy, as we receive the Blood of Christ that rises to Heaven clamoring for mercy on our behalf.

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

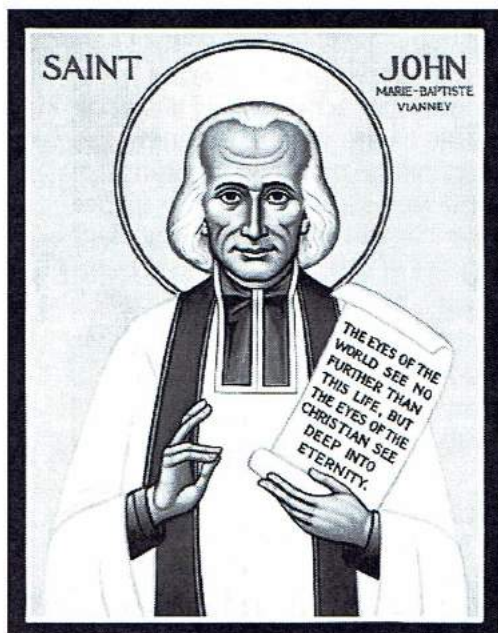


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if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived." *Saint Teresa of Avila*

August 2018

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups
in your Holy Hour this month:

August	5, 2018	Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (SSS)
August	12, 2018	Byzantine Poor Clare Nuns (BNSC)
August	19, 2018	Carmel of the Holy Family (OCD)
August	26, 2018	Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA)
September	2, 2018	Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati (SC)



The Church celebrates the feast of St. John Vianney on August 4. Since he is the patron saint of priests, how appropriate it is to speak of him this month since Avila's ministry is to pray for priests.

St. John Vianney was a French parish priest, also known as the "Cure d'Ars," was ordained in August 1815. He brought about a radical spiritual transformation in his parish and beyond. He led a holy life, was persevering in the Sacrament of Confession, was known for his strong homilies, and had a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He became known internationally, and people from distant places came to consult him, reaching up to 20,000 a year. During the last ten years of his life, he spent at least 11 or 12 hours a day in the confessional during winter, and up to 16 hours a day in the summer. He died in 1859 at the age of 73, was canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI and was named patron saint of priests four years later. Saint Benedict XVI proclaimed him patron saint of priests worldwide. Saint Pope John Paul referred to him as a "rare example of a pastor acutely aware of his responsibilities ... and a sign of courage for those who today experience the grace of being called to the priesthood."

Saint John Vianney composed this prayer, which is also quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2658:

***I love You, O my God,
and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life.
I love You, O my infinitely lovable God,
and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You.
I love You, Lord,
and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally
My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You,
I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath.***

We, too, should recite this prayer daily
and pray to St. John Vianney fervently for all of our priests.