

# Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR VOLUME I

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2018



## REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,  
September 19, 2018

PLEASE GATHER IN  
FOUNDERS' ROOM  
BETWEEN 9:45-10:00AM

HOLY HOUR WILL BEGIN  
AT 10:15AM

Followed by Community  
Mass with Seminarians,  
Luncheon, and Speaker.

### SPEAKER:

Rev. Edward Suszynski  
Our Lady Help of Christians

As always, friends/guests are most welcome! Please call **Marlyn Tunnell, 440-442-7538** no later than **noon on Monday, September 17**, if you cannot attend or to make additional reservations. **Guest donation is \$9.00.** Please remember to bring your Holy Hour Prayer Book. **Members:** Please leave your full name and phone number when calling to cancel reservation. Also, please note that **ALL Avila Members** have a standing reservation and need to call in cancellations when necessary. **Members who are unable to regularly attend meeting and cannot call to cancel luncheon reservations might consider becoming a sustaining member.** Thank you!

## President's Corner

### *O Sacrament Most Holy*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful way to pray for vocations. When we make our Holy Hours for vocations as Avilas, we ask Jesus to increase the number of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life while strengthening the commitment of those already in His service.

Mother Teresa understood the need to incorporate the Blessed Sacrament into her daily life. When Mother Teresa was deciding to include daily Eucharistic Adoration for her community, one of her sisters commented that the extra time spent in prayer would hinder their service to the poor. They would not be able to care for them as they ought. But Mother Teresa knew the importance of a daily commitment to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. She dedicated herself and her sisters to a daily hour of Eucharistic Adoration. Soon enough, the number of vocations to Mother Teresa's order doubled, giving the community more sisters for the work of the poor. The prayers of the sisters in Eucharistic Adoration enabled them to do what they needed to do in the world. We can only do the work of ministry if we are strengthened by Our Lord.

***May Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament be honored, loved and adored always!***

Sincerely,  
Virginia Kovacina

## Parish Holy Hours Units: Our Prayer Powerhouses

As Avilas, we promise to make a private Holy Hour every week, praying for vocations, for those discerning, and for those who already have dedicated themselves to the priesthood or religious life. In parish units, Avilas also encourage non-members to observe Holy Hours with them. Our new website ([www.avilasleveland.weebly.com](http://www.avilasleveland.weebly.com)) provides a complete list of times and locations. During the past year, I attended Avila Holy Hours at St. Justin Martyr, St. Bridget of Kildare, and St. Anthony of Padua parishes. It was spiritually uplifting to pray with others for our common intentions. **Please consider attending an Avila Holy Hour near you.** Here are examples of how they are conducted throughout our diocese:

On the first Friday of each month, Avilas at **Immaculate Conception** parish in Madison meet at 7:15 in the morning. They pray from our handbook, followed by the Rosary at 8:00, and then attend 8:30 Mass. In addition, every Wednesday morning after Mass, other parishioners join the Avilas before the Blessed Sacrament. They pray the Divine Mercy chaplet for vocations and prayers for priests from a booklet that parishioners compiled decades ago. In the course of the year, they also pray for every diocesan priest, deacon, and seminarian by name, as well as their own parishioner who is studying for the priesthood.

(continued)

(continued— Parish Holy Hour Units)

**St. Charles Borromeo** parish in Parma also has a man in the seminary. At eight o'clock on the third Thursday morning of the month, its Avilas pray the rosary. After attending 8:30 Mass, they pray from the Avila handbook: even-numbered pages on even-numbered months and odd numbered pages on the odd-numbered months. During its devotions, this group displays an Avila banner sewn by a member many years ago.

Avilas at **St. Francis de Sales** in Akron hold their Holy Hour on the second Monday morning of the month after attending 8:15 Mass. In addition to the rosary and prayers from the handbook, they pray for the religious communities designated for that month, for their priests and for their parish's three seminarians.

At **St. Helen** in Newbury, two Avilas faithfully meet on the second Saturday of each month in the chapel at 6 o'clock after 5 p.m. Mass. They pray the rosary, prayers from our handbook and the Stations of the Cross. Repeated attempts to recruit others to join them have failed, but the women will not give up. They believe their efforts, along with the prayers of others, have born fruit; a man from St. Helen was ordained in recent years.

Avilas at **St. Mary** in Hudson set out a statue of our patroness before their Holy Hour on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Their Holy Hour includes hymns, communal prayer and silent devotions. Deacon Carl Winterich reads and comments on the monthly meditation and shares announcements concerning vocations. The Holy Hour concludes with Benediction. Apparently the prayers of St. Mary's Avilas, combined with its dynamic Teen Life program, have nurtured vocations. Six men from the parish were ordained in the past six years – and the parish happily waits for the ordination of a seventh man next spring! The most recent vocation before that was the son of Avilas Bill and Blanche O'Brien. Father William O'Brien, S.J. was ordained in 2002.

### Pilgrimage of the Saints

One of the beauties of our faith is that the Church gives us role models by acknowledging holy men and women who lived Christ-like lives. No matter what their circumstances or challenges, our saints followed Him, even during the most trying times in human history.

On Sunday, September 9, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word open their serene grounds for a *Pilgrimage of the Saints*. This unique devotion, a walking tour, includes stops at statues of Jesus, the Blessed Mother and St. Patrick, St. Francis of Assisi and other saints. At each point, a leader offers a brief tribute to the designated saint. Pilgrims then respond with a prayer provided in the Pilgrimage of Saints brochure. The pilgrimage begins at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Hall, 6618 Pearl Road, Parma Heights, Ohio. It will take an estimated 75 to 90 minutes. Hosted by the Associates of the Incarnate Word, the pilgrimage concludes with refreshments and fellowship back at St. Joseph Hall. There is no registration and no cost. For more information, contact Sharron Dill at 440.886.6440, ext. 415 or [siwdevelopment@yahoo.com](mailto:siwdevelopment@yahoo.com).

**2018 Sisters of Notre Dame Chicken Barbecue and Boutique**  
**ONE DAY ONLY—Sunday, September 30, 2018—Noon to 5:00PM**  
Tickets available at the door or online at [sndchardon.org](http://sndchardon.org).



**Nancy Hach and husband Warren**

**Albert Maroun**  
husband of Jean



*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.*



*Joan Evans on the death  
of her brother Gary Knapp.*

*Anne Williams on the death  
of her sister-in-law Agnes.*

*Mary Ann Trask on the death  
of her sister Dolores England.*

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



MARY ANN TADY  
50 YEARS PROFESSED  
IN THE  
SECULAR INSTITUTE OF  
OUR LADY OF THE WAY.

*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*

September 2018

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



|           |          |                                       |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| September | 2, 2018  | Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati (SC) |
| September | 9, 2018  | Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill (SC) |
| September | 16, 2018 | Daughters of Divine Charity (FDC)     |
| September | 23, 2018 | Sisters of Divine Providence (CDP)    |
| September | 30, 2018 | Sisters of the Divine Redeemer (SDR)  |
| October   | 7, 2018  | Sisters of St. Dominic (Adrian) (OP)  |

### ST. PADRE PIO OF PIETRELCINA

If there was an Oscar of popularity for saints, St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina might win hands down! Born Francesco Forgione in 1887 and, despite health issues and lack of education, he was ordained in 1910. From his youth, he talked with his Guardian Angel, Jesus and Mary and was often levitated during prayer. He was most known throughout the world for the stigmata he suffered and hundreds of thousands visited him each year. A priest named Karol Wojtyla visited him in 1947, and Padre Pio prophetically told him he would rise to the highest position in the Church. Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II in 1978!

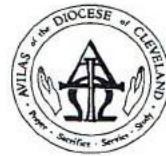
Padre Pio spent long hours in the confessional, a bright example to priests everywhere. His life was marked by intense suffering offered on behalf of others, fighting the devil's assaults and the visible wounds of Christ crucified. During Mass, his face was transfigured, sweat bathed his face and he would cry almost continuously, saying "I don't want to shed small tears. I want to shed a flood of tears. Don't you see the great mystery of the Mass?" He is credited with countless extraordinary happenings, miraculous cures and the gift of bilocation. He once wrote his spiritual director, "I have felt the need to offer myself to the Lord as a victim for poor sinners and for the souls in Purgatory. This desire has been growing continually in my heart so that it has now become what I would call a strong passion. I have in fact made this offering to the Lord several times, beseeching to pour out, upon me the punishments prepared for sinners and for the souls in a state of purgation, even increasing them a hundredfold for me, as long as He converts and saves sinners and quickly admits to paradise the souls in Purgatory .... It seems to me that Jesus really wants this." His spiritual director approved and told him, "Extend your own arms also on your cross and by offering to the Father the sacrifice of yourself in union with our most loving Saviour suffer, groan and pray for the wicked of the earth and for the poor souls in the next life who are so deserving of our compassion in their patient and unspeakable sufferings." In a March 1913 apparition, Jesus lamented the ingratitude of men adding, "My son, I need victims to calm my Father's just divine anger; renew the sacrifice of your whole self and do so without any reserve." Padre Pio later confirmed, "I have renewed the sacrifice of my life."

Padre Pio taught us to embrace our crosses and desire to share in Christ's suffering. Christ always walks before us carrying His Cross and ours, making sure we do not falter. Jesus will never abandon anyone who, through love of Him, walks with the weight of his cross. Padre Pio often talked about Simon of Cyrene carrying Jesus' Cross to encourage people to persevere. Padre Pio lived his life in the Cross' shadow for God's glory, his personal sanctification and the salvation of others. He realized that we instinctively shun suffering as being alien to happiness, but sought to make suffering souls understand we should strive to meet it. He knew suffering is not a punishment inflicted on people by God because of our sins, but a special love to share in the sorrowful mysteries of Christ.

Padre Pio died in 1968, canonized a saint in 2002 by (now) St. Pope John Paul II; His feast day is September 23.

**Dear Padre Pio, pray for each one of us, our personal sanctification and eternal salvation, our families and the sick and suffering. Pray that hatred is extinguished, violence ends, fraternal love flourishes and serenity arises in our country. Pray above all now for Holy Mother Church in this, one of Her most difficult hours.**

# Avilas of the Diocese of Cleveland



Meditation  
For Holy Hour

"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*

October 2018

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

|          |          |   |
|----------|----------|---|
| October  | 7, 2018  | Sisters of St. Dominic (Adrian) (OP)    |
| October  | 14, 2018 | Dominican Sisters of Peace (Akron) (OP) |
| October  | 21, 2018 | Religious of the Eucharist (RE)         |
| October  | 28, 2018 | Priests of the Diocese of Cleveland     |
| November | 4, 2018  | Evangelizing Sisters of Mary            |



## OUR PATRON SAINT: ST. TERESA OF AVILA

St. Teresa of Avila, the founder of the Discalced Carmelites, was born in Avila, Spain in 1515. She led a fairly ordinary childhood, though she always felt she did everything wrong and was convinced she was a horrible sinner. A typical teenager, she cared only about boys, clothes, flirting and rebellion. Her father sent her to a convent at age 16 and she had a difficult time making a decision between marriage and religious life. She finally chose religious life which she hated at first, but eventually enjoyed it because of her growing love for God. She tried to practice mental prayer, trying "as hard as (she) could to keep Jesus present within (her)," but without much success. She prayed this way for 18 years, without "results," blaming her disappointment in convent life. Many women with no other place to go entered the convent, whether or not they had vocations. Nuns dressed attractively and wore jewelry. Visitors in the parlor and parties included young men. Spiritual life was almost nonexistent. It was easy for Teresa to slip into a worldly life and ignore God. She instructed visitors in mental prayer, but got more involved in flattery, vanity and gossip instead.

Teresa contracted malaria and had a seizure. She woke up four days later, was paralyzed for three years and never completely well. She used her sickness as an excuse not to pray. "Prayer is an act of love" she later said. "Words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love ... lack of prayer was like a baby turning from its mother's breasts. What can be expected but death? ... All the trials we endure cannot be compared to these interior battles." Mental prayer she said was "nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us. The important thing is not to think much but to love much and so do that which best stirs you to love. Love is not great delight but desire to please God in everything." God gave her spiritual delights when she resumed praying. He overwhelmed her in her quiet prayer, and God overcame her with "glorious foolishness." She felt her "soul was melting way," and she often levitated during prayer. In her writings, she saw her gifts as chastisements instead of rewards, but the more love she felt, the harder it was to offend God. She was still attracted to her friends, but God told her, "No longer do I want you to converse with human beings but with angels," and instantly gave her the freedom she had been unable to achieve over many years. God always came first in her life then. Teresa's union with God gave her peace, inspiration and encouragement. She complained to Jesus about the hostility and gossip that plagued her, and He told her, "Teresa, that's how I treat my friends," and she told Him, "No wonder you have so few friends!" She knew He deserved to have more friends, so she decided to reform her Carmelite order, determined her new convent would reflect a simple life of poverty devoted to prayer, but she met much opposition. She felt spiritual life was an attitude of love, not a rule. She proclaimed poverty, but believed in work, not begging. She believed in obedience more than penance. She believed the most powerful prayer led to action, not just making a person feel good.

Teresa braved much difficulty to found more convents, but was denounced by the papal nuncio. When her former convent voted as prioress, the nuns were excommunicated. An officer of the law stood outside the door to keep her out. Other religious orders opposed her wherever she went. She often had to enter a town secretly at night to rioting. No one wanted her reminding them of God's law for their lives, but she felt these difficulties were good publicity and soon had women anxious to enter her reformed convents. Later, many people wanted to learn about prayer and soon her ideas about prayer swept through Spain and all of Europe. St. Teresa of Avila spent much time writing about her life. She died on October 4, 1582 at age 67, canonized in 1622 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. Her feast day is October 15.

*We would be wise to meditate on her advice: "Do not be dismayed, daughters, at the number of things which you have to consider before setting out on this divine journey, which is the royal road to heaven. By taking this road, we gain such precious treasures that it is no wonder if the cost seems to us a high one. The time will come when we will realize that all we have paid has been nothing at all by comparison with the greatness of our prizes."*