

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR VOLUME II

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2018



REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,
November 14, 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:

Reverend Mark Latcovich
President-Rector
Borromeo and Saint Mary
Seminaries

As always, friends/guests are most welcome! Please call **Marlyn Tunnell, 440-442-7538** no later than noon on **Monday, November 12**, 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

Christ Our King!

To Jesus Christ we give honor and glory forever!

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, is celebrated on the last Sunday in Ordinary Time. We give glory to Jesus as the Universal King and honor His Eternal Priesthood. This Feast was added by Pope Pius XI to the liturgical calendar in 1925. One of the wishes of the Holy Father was to connect devotion to Christ the King with Eucharistic Adoration and devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Christ our King reigns in our life when we choose to love and serve Him in every way. Christ in Glory, Christ on the altar, Christ in the stable at Bethlehem, we say,

"Praised be Jesus Christ both now and forever!"

*Sincerely,
Virginia Kovacina*



September Avila Gathering

At our September meeting, Father Edward Suszynski related his vocation story and described the first ten years of his priesthood. Father grew up in St. Bede parish in Mentor, attended parochial grade school and then public high school. His parents were strong in their faith and involved in parish activities. Their good example helped foster his vocation. Father loves the Road to Emmaus passage in the Bible and sees it in his own experience. "It's all about the journey," he said, noting that each assignment has taught him "how to walk with people – And to trust God in the process." As a seminarian, for example, he initially found it challenging to work at St. Malachi parish in Cleveland but he eventually cherished that experience. "It was everything I needed at that time of my life," he said. Since his ordination in 2008, Father served as parochial vicar at St. Charles in Parma and St. Gabriel in Concord Township. He was also parochial vicar at Our Lady Help of Christians in Litchfield before becoming its pastor. He loves this assignment, where he ministers to communities in a large rural territory. "I'm where God wants me to be right now," he said.

Father Suszynski thanked the Avilas for praying for him and his brother priests. He asked that we also pray for strong families. "Without that, the ground isn't fertile for sowing seeds of vocations," he said.

Parish Unit Spotlight: St. Francis de Sales, Akron

To find an Avila Holy Hour near you, visit avilascleveland.weebly.com and choose "about". This will take you to information about membership options. A link in the Parish Unit section provides a listing of participating churches. If you live in Akron, for example, you could join 16 or more Avilas at *St. Francis de Sales Church on the second Monday of the month*. Retired Deacon Richard Butz presides over this Holy Hour after 8:15 Mass. Beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 9 o'clock, and concluding with Benediction, the Holy Hour includes the rosary, prayers from our handbook, and private reflection. The groups pray for the month's designated religious communities and for each of the parish's four current seminarians; one of these men, Deacon David Stavarz, will be ordained a priest in the spring. These Avilas also pray by name for their parish priests and for several parishioners who have already become sisters and priests. During Lent, they add the Stations of the Cross. Unit leader Beverly Krizay (330-848-9214) is happy to answer your questions.

News From Our Treasurer

All Avila members have a standing reservation for lunch as outlined in each newsletter and reiterated by our President. ***It is crucial for each member to advise Marlyn Tunnell if they cannot attend.*** While most members have been very good about doing this, unfortunately there are still some who do not. The Avilas have to pay \$7.50 for each member who has not let Marlyn know they cannot attend. *At the September meeting, 13 people did not cancel.* These "lost" dollars take away from monies used to pay for our expenses and to serve our seminarians and religious in tangible ways.

To cancel a reservation, please call Marlyn (440-442-7538) or go to our website, (www.avilascleveland@weebly.com), click on "contact" at the top of the page, and then fill out the luncheon form.

Perhaps some members are not aware of an important way that we Avilas honor our service commitment. At the request of Father Michael McCandless, Diocesan Vocation Office Director, the Avilas provide each in-coming seminarian with a welcome package consisting of a Borromeo cinch bag containing a Bible required by the seminary, a hand-made rosary, and a gift certificate for a sweet treat. This is a wonderful way for us to help each new seminarian to begin his journey towards priesthood, and it is made possible by your dues as Avila members. Your officers and board members thank each of you for allowing us as Avilas to both pray for vocations and to assist in small material ways when possible.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Bill O'Brien, Treasurer

In addition to congratulations cards to the newly ordained, this year Sunshine Chairman Norma Vaccarina sent cards from the Avilas to approximately 140 Priests, Sisters, and Deacons celebrating milestone anniversaries of ordination or religious profession.



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.***



**Avilas Tom and Barb Kovacic
on the death of Tom's father,
Edward Kovacic.**

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



**God Bless!
Jeri 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*

November 2018

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

November	4, 2018	Evangelizing Sisters of Mary
November	11, 2018	Felician Sisters (CSSF)
November	18, 2018	Religious Teachers Filippini (MPF)
November	25, 2018	Order of Friars Minor (Sacred Heart Province) (OFM)
December	2, 2018	Franciscans (Pulaski, Wisconsin) (OFM)

"OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE"



We celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. By this feast, we are reminded that Christ is the Supreme Power, the Lord of our lives, over all men and over all things; that Christ is our Redeemer who purchased us with His Precious Blood and that Christ is head of the Church.

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice" (John 18:37).

This Sunday also provides an appropriate bridge to the new Church year that begins the following Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, with an emphasis on hope, expectation and longing for the coming of the Kingdom of God amid the darkness of a sinful world.

The feast was added to the Church calendar in 1925 due to increasing secularization and the rise of dangerous dictatorships world-wide. People have suffered and have been tortured and killed for their faith since the beginning of the Church. Thousands of priests still deal with adversity and hardship and still die in service to the Church to the present. We know that Jesus took His suffering and made it the greatest expression of love on the Cross. It is only through suffering that the Church will be renewed.

May we, the faithful, gain strength and courage from the celebration of this glorious feast as we are reminded that the loving and merciful Christ, just King of the Universe, must reign in our hearts, minds, wills and bodies, and that He reigns now and forever. St. Teresa of Avila said, "If Christ Jesus dwells in a man as his friend and noble leader, that man can endure all things, for Christ helps and strengthens us and never abandons us. He is a true friend."

As Avilas, let our prayers especially come alongside those priests persecuted and martyred for the faith in all times and places this very day, and with them we proclaim, "**Cristo Rey! Christ is King!**"

"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*

December 2018

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

December	2, 2018	Franciscans (Pulaski, Wisconsin) (OFM)
December	9, 2018	Conventual Franciscans (OFM Conv)
December	16, 2018	Capuchin Franciscan Friars (OFM Cap)
December	23, 2018	Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS)
December	30, 2018	For All Families
January	6, 2019	Sisters of St. Francis (Chicago) (OSF)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Feast of the Holy Family (celebrated on December 30) presents the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph, as a model for Christian families. The Gospels speak very little of the Holy Family before Jesus began His public ministry.

What IS a holy family? The primary meaning of "holy" is "different, set apart." Families can be holy if they follow God's plan. God's plan for family is that of a "school of love." He wants us to be holy, and the perfection of love is holiness. In a holy family, a husband loves his wife and a wife loves her husband. It is in this faithful relationship of love that children are brought into the world and raised in holy fear of the Lord.

The greatest crisis that we face today is the crisis of the family from all sides. Society clouds judgment and makes many think that what is sinful and improper may in fact be acceptable and even good. The world wants to redefine the family.

Christian families can counter the cultural lies by being examples of a holy family life which is a blessing to others: fostering kindness, care, love, respect, compassion, patience, appropriate correction, moments of prayer, going to church together and showing forgiveness for one another. It is in this way that we can announce God's plan for families. Jesus, through the Holy Family, spreads love to the whole world. The family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are seen by the world as being too good to be true and not relevant in today's society, but we know better! True and lasting happiness and a joyful family can be found in a God centered life.

A holy family can live in a peace which the world cannot give by putting God first in everything and living in great faith and obedience to His holy will.

