

# Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR VOLUME III

JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2019



## REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,  
January 16, 2019

PLEASE GATHER IN  
FOUNDERS' ROOM  
AT 10:00AM

HOLY HOUR WILL BEGIN  
AT 10:15AM

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

### SPEAKER:

Father Lester Knoll, OFM Cap  
Borromeo Seminary Faculty  
Spiritual Advisor

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!**

## November Avila Gathering

Rev. Mark Latkovich, President-Rector, Borromeo Seminary and Saint Mary Seminary, related his vocation story. The night before his First Communion, he realized God was calling him to the priesthood. Father grew up in a faith-filled family who did not question his early vocation. When they relocated from Pennsylvania to the Cleveland diocese, he attended Borromeo seminary high school. He has spent 27 years of his priesthood at the seminary where 97 men currently are in formation.

"All their vocations are brought forth first by the Lord and then cultivated by people like the Avilas," Father said. He explained that an individual hears an inner call to the priesthood or religious life, but other people affirm it. He described incidents that occurred when he was still a seminarian, such as the time a stranger sitting behind him at Mass suddenly asked if he had considered becoming a priest. Father emphasized that no vocation is static. Not only does a vocation evolve, but also it needs continuous fortification and nurturing. He thanked the Avilas for praying for vocations and for adopting individual priests and "entering a spiritual solidarity with them." Although he couldn't know whether or not his own anonymous Prayer Mom was present, Father expressed gratitude for her prayers, and for her encouraging notes on his birthday, Christmas, Easter and the anniversary of his ordination. Fr. Latkovich also described his deep appreciation for his priesthood. **"A vocation is a gift," he said. "The best way to receive it is to be grateful for it."**

## Welcome New Members

**A hearty welcome to the following new Avilas who joined us in 2018:**

Karen Cain - St. Paul, Akron  
Pattie Collett - St. Bede the Venerable, Mentor  
Bob Conrad and Susan Conrad - St. Mary, Hudson  
Ginny Fox - St. Clare, Lyndhurst  
Margaret Gabriel - Immaculate Conception, Madison  
Joan Herchel - St. Bernadette, Westlake  
Julie Jacobs, Ken Jacobs & Nick Jacobs - Immaculate Conception, Madison  
Joan Keating - St. Angela Merici, Fairview Park  
Patricia Kennedy - Assumption, Broadview Heights  
H. William Kline - St. Mary, Hudson  
Franz Lang - St. Barnabas, Northfield  
Anne McCarron and Bill McCarron - Sacred Heart, South Euclid  
Vera McCarthy - St. Christopher, Rocky River  
Patricia Monroe - Our Lady of the Lake, Euclid  
Phil Ott - St. Francis de Sales, Akron  
Arch Tunnell - St. Clare, Lyndhurst

**Parish Unit Spotlight: St. John Vianney  
7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor**

Consider attending the Holy Hour at our newest parish unit on *Thursday, January 10*. Convenient for those still in the work force, Avilas attend 7 p.m. Mass on the second Thursday of each month, followed by a Holy Hour in the Adoration Chapel that includes prayers from the handbook, the rosary and prayers for individual priests, sisters, and seminarians. Mary Ellen DeSantis, whose son Martin is a junior at Borromeo, felt called to start the unit. "I thought it was a proactive and productive way to support vocations," she said.

Mary Ellen welcomes your questions at 440-223-0615.

**PLEASE EXPLORE OUR WONDERFUL WEBSITE:**

**[avilascleveland.weebly.com](http://avilascleveland.weebly.com)**

*Avila Laura Lang has lavished countless hours on building and updating our website. Please spend some time exploring it - you will be amazed at the wealth of information it offers.*

- Under **"PRAY"** find daily special intentions – the designated priest, seminarian and religious community to remember in our prayers.
- Under **"ARCHIVED PRAYERS"** discover beautiful prayers that are not included in our handbook. Parish units might adopt some of these.
- Under **"NEWS,"** learn about vocation-related activities, such as the recent Avila Day of Prayer on October 24. See photos of this special event, which 60 people attended.
- Under **"ABOUT,"** locate a Parish Unit Holy Hour near you in the section headlined "Parish Unit Member." Also under "ABOUT," consider the commitment to be a priest's anonymous Prayer Mom or Dad. If you feel called to do so, you can volunteer by filling out the Contact Form online.
- Would you like to bring a guest to an Avilas meeting? Go to **"CONTACT"** and fill out the form. Should you be unable to attend a meeting, there is another form where you can cancel your luncheon reservation.

**SAVE THE DATE**

***35th Annual Bishop's Seminary Brunch  
to Support our Seminarians***

***Sunday, March 24, 2019, Executive Caterers***



**Dominic Avenoso,  
father of Mary**

**Patricia,  
daughter of Vera Casey**

**Peter Thomas,  
husband of Minnie Thomas  
and father of Virginia Kovacina**



*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.*



**Russ Guthrie  
on the death of his wife, longtime Avila,  
Loretta.**

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



**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*

January 2019

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

January	6, 2019	Sisters of St. Francis (Chicago) (OSF)
January	13, 2019	Sisters of St. Francis (Millvale) (OSF)
January	20, 2019	Sisters of St. Francis (Sylvania) (OSF)
January	27, 2019	Sisters of St. Francis (Tiffin) (SSF)
February	3, 2019	Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate (Joliet) (OSF)

## **DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN**



The United States Council of Catholic Bishops has declared January 22, 2019, a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

It is important to look at the staggering statistics. It is estimated that there have been over 1.72 billion abortions worldwide in the past 40 years. There are approximately 2550 abortions done in the United States each day. As of 2017, there were about 700 abortion facilities in the United States. Women in their 20's account for the majority of abortions.

We can help change this trend of evil if every Christian fully embraces life in Jesus Christ and reflects His truth and love. We are all called to speak the truth in love and with respect and calmness about the sacredness and dignity of every human being. Imagine how many souls might be lost because of our silence with such topics as contraception and abortion. If we meet a woman who has chosen abortion, we must reassure her that she can be healed through God's love and mercy. We are all made in the image and likeness of Jesus. These women are often bearing the burden of overwhelming pressures, sometimes from their own families. Speak of the value of adoption. The Church cares just as deeply for the unborn as She does for the born.

Pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament for all pregnant women and the children they bear. Pray for all those women who are contemplating abortion. Dedicate a Rosary to the end of this tragic and complex evil. Perhaps some day our society will listen to the words of Isaiah when he said, "*Turn not your back on your own flesh.*"

### **DO NOT LOSE HEART.**

*"For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name by having served and continuing to serve the holy ones. We earnestly desire each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of hope until the end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who, through faith and practice, are inheriting the promises." (Hebrews 6:10-12)*

"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*

February 2019

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

February	3, 2019	Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate (Joliet) (OSF)
February	10, 2019	Congregation of the Holy Cross (CSC)
February	17, 2019	Priests of Holy Cross (Indiana Province) (CSC)
February	24, 2019	Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN)
March	3, 2019	Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Emeritus of Rome

## **FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER**

February 22 is the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. In Matthew 16, we are reminded about the time when Jesus asked His disciples who did people say the Son of Man was. The apostles answered, but Peter said, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*" Jesus replied, "*You are Peter, and upon this rock I shall build My Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it ... Whatever you bind on earth shall bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*"

How awesome the responsibilities Jesus gave to His priests, yet how demanding and sobering these are. The duties of a parish priest include presiding at Mass, giving blessings, proclaiming and explaining the Gospel, anointing the sick and absolving sinners, all which build up a community of faith.

What would we do without our priests? Who would say Mass? Who would consecrate the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ? Who would forgive our sins in Jesus' name? Who would counsel us in accordance with Church teaching and with the Catechism? Who would prepare us for our final days here on earth?

We often take our priests for granted. Yes, we should pray for them, but here are some specific ways to pray and a few other suggestions:

- ◆ *Pray for wisdom, discernment and for God's will for our priests.*
- ◆ *Pray for courage and strength so that they can continue to live out their vocation in the midst of a culture that is often non-supportive.*
- ◆ *Pray for hope and pray against discouragement; often our priests don't see the fruits of their labors.*
- ◆ *Offer a Mass for them; we can offer Masses for the living as well as the deceased!*

Tell your priest that you are praying for him, and ask him how you can best support him. Inviting a priest to your home can be a great blessing, not necessarily for dinner, but just for coffee and desert; consider asking one or two other couples from the parish to join you. Come to your priest with solutions, not just complaints or "suggestions," or volunteer to be part of the solution.



***Jesus, we thank you for our holy priests. Sanctify them, give them the graces to seek in their lives only Your holy will and Your glory. Keep them strong in their love for You, renew their courage in the midst of their difficulties, accompany them in their loneliness and grant all of their needs. Send Your Holy Spirit to enlighten them. Blessed Mother, wrap your mantle of protection around them always. Amen.***

