

# Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR VOLUME II

avilascleveland.weebly.com

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2019



## REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,  
November 20, 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:

Reverend George Kusy

Pastor  
St. Cyprian Parish,  
Perry

As always, friends/guests are most welcome! Please call **Diana Capretta, 216-396-0358** no later than noon on **Monday, November 18**, 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

This is the time of year when we remember all that we are thankful for. And we have a lot to be grateful for - the beautiful Catholic Church, the pillar of truth, for the Catholic Catechism which gives us guidelines for living a holy life and for all of our priests and religious. We are thankful for God's sending His Son to us as a little child. Father Mitch Pacwa says that Jesus was "*born poor so we could be rich.*" And how rich our lives are, but we know that we will attain our ultimate wealth when we arrive in Heaven. If it were not for our priests who, standing in the place of Jesus, hear our confessions and offer us the forgiveness of our sins, consecrate the Holy Eucharist to strengthen us and nourish our souls, baptize us, marry us, and who are with us in our final hours, we would never get to Heaven. In this holy and joyful time of year, let us remember to offer them our prayers, good works and fasting.

Happy Thanksgiving and a Joyful Christmas to all!

*Marlyn Tunnell, Avila President*

## ☪ September Avila Gathering ☪

The Avilas had the pleasure of hosting Father David Durkee as their speaker at the September 18 luncheon. Father was born and raised Catholic, and was educated by the Dominican Sisters. His parents were always active in parish life in some capacity, and his family always ended their day by kneeling around his parents' bedside for recitation of the Rosary. He fondly remembers his second grade teacher teaching him that Jesus was his best friend, and that it was important to have a personal relationship with Him. He attended daily Mass before school, and always knew that Jesus was present in the tabernacle. On the day of his First Holy Communion, he felt that the priest was close to Heaven. He had gentle nudges toward the priesthood throughout his life, and recalls a book that his grandparents gave him when he was nine years old and in fourth grade, "Cure' of Ars: The Priest Who Out-Talked the Devil." He was inspired by St. John Vianney's love of the priesthood, and the quote, "If you show me the way to Ars, I will show you the way to Heaven" spoke to his heart. He became an altar server in fifth grade, and realized priests really were normal people! He visited a seminary while in eighth grade, loved his visit very much and realized that the priesthood might be the path God wanted for him. While a sophomore in high school and while working on a project for Eagle Scout status, he approached a local pastor and was hired to weed the garden. While there, he saw the happiness of priests, and the opportunities they had at being available for people at all the important events in their lives.

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His family moved to Florida, where Father experienced much homesickness. He told God that if He would take his homesickness away, he would recite a daily Rosary the rest of his life. And he has since kept that promise, knowing that the power of God's grace comes to us through prayer, especially the Rosary, and through the Sacraments. While in the seminary, he went through a real crisis of his vocation when his parents divorced after 27 years of marriage, but was encouraged to rely on the seminary staff to confirm his vocation or not.

Since his ordination, Father has felt that every assignment he had as a priest was important as he worked to get to know all the members of each parishes. He has no doubt that Adoration and recitation of the Rosary will result in increased vocations to the priesthood. We thoroughly enjoyed Father's vocation story sprinkled with humor, and pray for God's continued blessings on him for many more years while in service to the Lord.



Born in Akron, Ohio, the youngest of five children, Father Durkee graduated from Walsh Jesuit High School in 1972, went on to Borromeo and St. Mary's Seminaries and was ordained in June 1980. He has since been assigned to five different parishes as parochial vicar. His most recent assignment is as pastor of Queen of Heaven Parish in Green, Ohio, since 1999, where the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood was celebrated with a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a dinner-dance. Father loves his priestly vocation and ministry. He enjoys camping, hiking and bike riding in his spare time, along with the companionship of his chocolate Labrador retriever, Sailor.

**Into your hands, O Lord,  
we humbly entrust  
our brothers and sisters.  
In this life you embraced them  
with your tender love;  
deliver them now from every evil  
and bid them enter eternal rest.**

**The old order has passed away;  
welcome them into paradise,  
where there will be no sorrow,  
no weeping nor pain,  
but fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**



**Carol Baranowski**

**Ann Edwards**

**William Rutherford**

**Brother-in-law of Regina Lee**

**Ruth Merriman**

**David Tunnell**

**Son of Arch and Marlyn**



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

**Joan Evans' husband, Greg, is  
doing well and is thankful for the  
concern and prayers of the Avilas.**

**Do not hesitate to contact Joan  
Evans if you would like a  
prayer request sent out to the  
Avilas. You can email her at  
joanevans1130ad@gmail.com  
or call her at 440-331-2383.**

## **Roster Update**

**Joan Herchl**

**Castlewood Apartments**

**17600 Detroit Avenue #402**

**Lakewood, OH 44107**

**216-801-4448**

**joanherchl@gmail.com**

**Vocation Awareness Week**

**November 3 - 9, 2019**

**God Bless!**

**Susan Federico**

**Publicity and Scripture Resource**



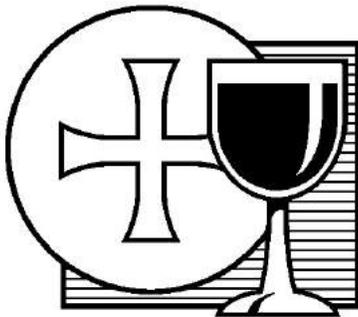
“There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;  
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived.” *Saint Teresa of Avila*

November 2019

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

November	3, 2019	Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS)
November	10, 2019	Religious Women and Men of the Diocese of Cleveland
November	17, 2019	Religious Women and Men in Formation
November	24, 2019	Seminarians in Formation in the Diocese of Cleveland
December	1, 2019	Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland (OSU)

## THE REAL PRESENCE



It is a widely known fact that many Catholics unfortunately do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. A recent poll revealed that half of Catholics in the United States do not know what the Catholic Church teaches them about the Eucharist. The other half feels that the Eucharist is just a symbol. Only one third of Catholics believe that the Eucharist is the actual Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Though much of these statistics can be attributed to ignorance, how disturbing and sad this is – for the Church, for all of us and most of all for them.

In light of these troubling statistics, some of Father Donnelly’s comments at our September Holy Hour are worth repeating. John 6 is a very important passage:

***Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him ... The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father.” As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. (John 6: 53-56, 63b-66)***

Jesus helps us and nurtures us through frequent reception of Holy Communion and in our devotion to Him. He has given us a number of miracles that are meant to strengthen our faith. One was in Lanciano, Italy in the eighth century when the Host was changed into live flesh and the Wine into live blood. Noted scientists in 1970 and again in 1981 determined the flesh is real flesh and the blood is real blood belonging to the human species, a heart in its essential structure, with blood type AB. After many centuries, this remains an extraordinary phenomenon. A similar miracle occurred in Bolsena, Italy in 1263 when, during Mass, the Eucharist began to bleed. The blood fell onto the altar linen in the shape of the face of Jesus, and the blood stained linen is still venerated as a major relic. It was the following year, in 1264, that Pope Urban IV instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi to celebrate this miraculous event. There have been a number of other miracles involving consecrated Hosts.

God gives us these miracles to help us maintain our faith that the Doctrine about the Real Presence is true. Jesus does His greatest work through the Mass. In any given hour, 10,000 to 16,000 Masses are being said throughout the world! To be a Catholic is a privilege. Thank God for the Mass and for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, our greatest gift from the Lord!



"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 2019

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

December	1, 2019	Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland (OSU)
December	8, 2019	Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown (OSU)
December	15, 2019	Vocation Directors of the Diocese of Cleveland
December	22, 2019	Apostles of Jesus (AJ)
December	29, 2019	Order of St. Basil the Great - Philadelphia (OSBM)
January	5, 2020	Order of St. Basil the Great - Uniontown (OSBM)

The month of December is dedicated to the Divine Infancy of Jesus, celebrating His divinity and humanity and the mystery of His nature. While we each are one person with one nature, Jesus is one person with two natures - fully God and fully man.

Jesus did not choose to come as a great and powerful Lord. Rather, he came as a small Infant so that it would be easier for us to love Him in return. Christ calls upon us in His Infancy to imitate His humility and meekness, that our hearts may be innocent and confident.

Statues of the Infant Jesus often depict His right hand raised in blessing. He comes as a little Child to give us confidence. He holds the world in His hand, for from His Conception He is already King of the Universe. His Kingdom is a Kingdom of truth and life, a Kingdom of grace and holiness, of justice, love and peace. The effects of the Infant King reigning in our lives are like the love and joy which a child brings to a household.

Let us offer prayers for children and their families who are victims of abuse, homelessness, hunger, discrimination and poverty. May all of us be inspired through the innocence and purity of heart of the Infant Jesus to do wondrous works of mercy and compassion.



*Sweet Child Jesus,  
today I prostrate myself at Thy feet.  
I consecrate to You my heart, my soul, my whole self  
so that I may love and serve Thee with all my strength.*

*My Divine Savior,  
grant me a larger heart so I may love Thee more.  
I yearn to inspire an ardent love  
of Thy adorable Infancy in all I meet.  
Grant that all people may know  
the power of Thy littleness and humility.*

*O Infant King,  
have mercy on us and grant our petitions.  
Amen.*