

# Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR VOLUME IV

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MARCH, APRIL 2020



## REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,  
March 18, 2020

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 Jacob Bearer  
Parochial Vicar

St. Francis de Sales Parish  
Akron

As always, friends/guests are most welcome! Please call **Diana Capretta, 216-396-0358** no later than noon on Monday, **March 16**, 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

*"Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you" (Gen 41:55)*

In this month of March we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, the Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. As Avilas, we take our instructions regarding prayer from our patron saint, St. Teresa of Avila. As a great mystic and Doctor of the Church, she can teach us many things about the importance of consecration, prayer and devotion to St. Joseph marked with the unlimited trust and confidence which she had.

How great is St. Joseph? How powerful is his intercession? St. Teresa referred to him as "the glorious St. Joseph." She never took any affair in hand without commanding it to him. All the convents which she founded she consecrated under the invocation of his name. How important is it that we turn to him with our prayers?

We can learn from St. Teresa's instruction and follow her example in prayer regarding "the glorious St. Joseph." She wrote, "I wish I could persuade everyone to be devoted to the glorious St Joseph, for I have great experience of the blessings which he can obtain from God. I do not remember that I have ever asked anything of him which he has failed to grant. I am astonished at the great favors which God has bestowed on me through this blessed saint, and at the perils from which he has delivered me, both in body and in soul." She also says, "To other saints, the Lord seems to have given grace to help us in some of our necessities. But my experience is that St Joseph helps us in them all; also that the Lord wishes to teach us that, as he was himself subject on earth to St. Joseph, so in heaven he now does all that Joseph asks." She then challenges us by saying, "I only request, for the love of God, whoever will not believe me will test the truth of what I say, for he will see by experience how great a blessing it is to recommend oneself to this glorious patriarch and to be devoted to him. I have never known anyone who was truly devoted to him and honored him by particular services who did not advance greatly in virtue, for he helps in a special way those souls who recommend themselves to him."

How important is it that we "Go to Joseph" with trust and confidence? As we are living in the midst of crisis, confusion and attack on the Church, I pray that we will prayerfully consider taking on St. Teresa's challenge by making a consecration to St. Joseph. As Avila's we can learn from St. Teresa who went to Joseph for many things. We can ask his intercession for our personal needs, the needs of our families, our Church, our country and, of course, for our Priests and for those discerning God's call to priestly or religious life. St. Teresa tells us that "those who practice prayer should always have a special affection for the glorious St. Joseph." *(continued)*



***(President's Corner continued)***

Let us pray for one another that we will consider consecration and "Go to Joseph" asking his help for the many needs of our lives, trusting as St. Teresa did that we, like her, will, by experience, see how great a blessing it is to recommend oneself to this glorious patriarch and to be devoted to him. May we all grow in holiness and prayer marked with limited trust and confidence. Father Dan Calloway's (MCI) new book, entitled *Consecration to St Joseph: The Wonders of our Spiritual Father*, may be a help to taking on St. Teresa's challenge.

***St. Joseph, pray for us.  
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, We Love You, Save Souls.***

*Peace in Jesus and Mary,  
Marlyn Tunnell, Avila President*

**❧ January Avila Speaker ❧**

Ordained less than a year ago in May 2019 at the age of 54, Father Conrad Wald, OSB, presented a most interesting and unique vocation story to us. Born in Germany, his family belonged to the Episcopal Church, and he was baptized at six years of age along with two other siblings, realizing its importance even at that very young age, knowing it made him a Christian. His family relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, when he was two years old. He was an altar server until he was 15 years old, and was active in a youth group while in public high school, graduating in 1982 where he was encouraged to pray and love Jesus. He went on to study at the University of Georgia, then at Ohio State University, following which he served as an assistant to the Director of the Peace Corps in Washington, DC through 1992. He had an almost 20 year career in the retirement planning industry during which time he was "church shopping."

Father Wald made the decision to enter an RCIA program in 2002, and was received into the Catholic Church in 2003. He served as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion for several years, but, feeling the need for more of a sense of purpose, he knew that he was being called to something greater. While attending Mass in a small Kansas town, the priest there told him, "We can't keep parishes open without priests. Not enough men are stepping forward."

After feeling he might have a call to the religious life, Father Wald attended several discernment weekends. He felt a tug towards monastic life, and finally decided to enter the postulancy program in early 2012 at Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland where he felt a sense of comfort and familiarity. He became a novice later in the year, then took his first vows to the monastic life in June 2013. He professed his final solemn vows as a monk in the Benedictine Order in June 2016.

Father began his studies for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Wickliffe, and completed his theology studies at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA. He was ordained by Auxiliary Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, at the age of 54 years on May 25, 2019, in the abbey church of St. Andrew Abbey. He is currently working on his masters studies at John Carroll University so that he can teach at Benedictine High School. He presently serves as a weekend assistant at Immaculate Conception Church in Madison, oversees three study hall periods on school days at Benedictine High and sits on the Senior Council of St. Andrew Abbey.

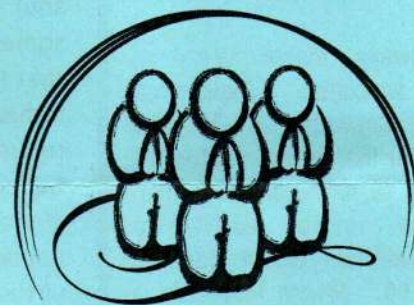
Looking back on his life, Father Wald can see many milestones which marked God's guidance, and he hopes to serve as a priest for many years to come.



- Carol Baranowski**
- Vera Casey**
- Rosetta Comella**
- Ann Edwards**
- Ginny Fox**
- Ann Frencel**
- Pat Hesland**
- "K," friend of Anne Williams**
- Barbara Kahoun**
- Ruth Merriman**
- Sara, niece of Regina Lee**
- Jim, nephew of Ellen Patton**
- Rosetta Saraniti**
- Arch Tunnell**
- 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.***



***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.***

***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*

March 2020

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

March	1, 2020	Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA)
March	8, 2020	Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati (SC)
March	15, 2020	Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill (SC)
March	22, 2020	Daughters of Divine Charity (FDC)
March	29, 2020	Sisters of Divine Providence (CDP)
April	5, 2020	Sisters of the Divine Redeemer (SDR)

## **TRUST IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING**

Suffering while trying to live joyfully and peacefully as a child of God is very hard to do. Trusting God while undergoing suffering can be very difficult especially when we want comfort, ease, and happiness. The enemy desires our fall; God desires our perseverance, faith, and trust. Total trust in our Father will help us to endure suffering that He deems necessary for our salvation. Suffering that comes along in this life will then be seen for what it really is – a way to bring us closer to God and to His will. When we meditate on Christ's sufferings especially during this Lenten Season and how we should unite our sufferings with His, we will learn to reject the fleeting pleasures of this life and seek the rewards of the next life.

Jesus himself told us that His yoke is easy, and His burden light (Matthew 11:30). His yoke of suffering teaches us all that we need Him and that we are not in control of our lives like we think we are. While we are going through the suffering He sends us or allows, if we ponder ours in light of Christ's suffering, then we can more easily accept ours.

We are completely dependent on God's mercy and grace. We must trust that He wants to save us and that He will give us the resources needed to cope with life's challenges and achieve our eternal destiny. God meets our spiritual needs just as He promised. He also provides for our physical needs, as long as we place our trust in Him. He is an expert at solving problems and providing for us!

Someday suffering will knock on our door if it has not already. Perhaps we will be tempted by despair, anger or doubt, but, at the same time, we must try to be open to God's grace. Perhaps we will hear a gentle invitation from Him calling us to trust Him more deeply. It is in these moments that we must make a choice: will we entrust ourselves to God's grace and accept His invitation, will we respond to Him and answer the call He is putting on our heart or will we turn inward in self-pity and resentment? There can be many opportunities for us this Lent. An active faith becomes a positive and joyful response to God in moments like this and can transform hardships into glorious blessings. When we experience hardships, we must try and open our ears to listen to the gentle voice of God, letting Him speak to us, call us to surrender and inviting us to let our struggles be transformed by His grace. Making the choice to surrender to God in the midst of trial adds much power and merit to your choice. The interior anguish and suffering we submit to God can elevate our choice to trust in Him to profound heights, and we must remember that trials in life offer us incredible opportunities for holiness!

The key is trust. Do we trust God enough to let Him take the lead? Are we willing to embrace His will and say "Yes" every day? Whether life is filled with suffering, is going well or is somewhere in between, God has a perfect plan for our lives and He will never let us down. There is great freedom in trusting God. When God is in control, the heavy burdens of anxiety and worry disappear. The humble and trusting soul is not tossed and turned by the turmoil of life, rather it is always at peace no matter what comes its way in life.

Saint Padre Pio famously said, "*Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful.*" St. Teresa of Avila reassures us, "*God is full of compassion and never fails those who are afflicted and despised, if they trust in Him alone.*"



"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*

April 2020

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

April	5, 2020	Sisters of the Divine Redeemer (SDR)
April	12, 2020	Sisters of St. Dominic (Adrian) (OP)
April	19, 2020	Dominican Sisters of Peace (Akron) (OP)
April	26, 2020	Religious of the Eucharist (RE)
May	3, 2020	Evangelizing Sisters of Mary

## **NO STONE TOO BIG**

Easter is the greatest celebration of the Church: Jesus' resurrection. It reminds us that there is life beyond the grave, that there is more to each of us than meets the eye and that we have an immortal soul. Although our body will return to dust, our soul will live forever with God.

In his 2019 Easter address, Pope Francis began with the image of the women bringing spices to the tomb early Easter morning. They found a stone blocking the entrance. "The journey of those women is also our own," the Pope said. "At times, it seems that everything comes up against a stone ... but we see that our journey is not in vain. Easter is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. Human history does not end before a tombstone."

What is our purpose of life? What is our goal in life? Where is our heart? Life has only one ultimate goal - to prepare for the next life. Can you take your house or car or money to heaven with you? It is God that we want to meet in the next life. We must live like we believe in a glorious future! We must not allow the stones in our life to prevent us from meeting the risen Jesus. We must allow Him to roll away our stones and meet Him.

Stones of discouragement block hope, stones of sin seal our hearts shut. Sin is like "a stone before the entrance to your heart," the Pope said. "It keeps God's light from entering in." Your stone could be ill health, joblessness, childlessness, joylessness. Give Him the stones of our rancour and the boulders of our past, those heavy burdens of our weaknesses and falls.

If Jesus can roll away our heavy stones, what other stone would not be moved by the power of His resurrection? Easter Sunday is our sharing in the triumph and victory of God. Let that victory and triumph touch our lives.



***Ask the risen Jesus to roll away our stones. There is no stone too big for God to move!***

***"Our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Savior we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body." (Phil 3:20)***