

# Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR VOLUME VI

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JULY, AUGUST 2020



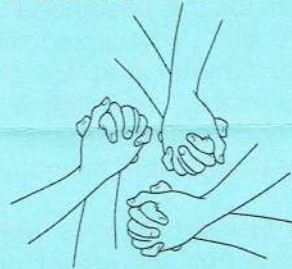
Father, Creator of all,  
thank you for summer!  
Thank you for the warmth  
of the sun and the  
increased daylight.  
Thank you for the beauty  
I see all around me  
and for the opportunity  
to be outside and enjoy  
Your creation.  
Thank You for the  
increased time I have  
to be with my  
friends and family,  
and for the more casual  
pace of the  
summer season.  
Draw me closer to You  
this summer.  
Teach me how I can pray  
no matter where I am  
or what I am doing.  
Warm my soul with the  
awareness of  
Your presence  
and light my path with  
Your Word and Counsel.  
As I enjoy Your creation,  
create in me a pure heart  
and a thirst for You.  
Amen.

—Author Unknown

*Enjoy and  
Stay Safe!*

## President's Corner

**"Pray and do not lose heart" - Luke 18:1-8**



Bishop Sheen advises us that "The power of our prayer is not found in the words we speak but in lifting the mind and heart to God. He also said, "Prayer is a battle that takes effort." St. Padre Pio also speaks about prayer: "Prayer must come before everything; never tire of prayer. We become weak without it. Prayer brings us peace." Our patron, St. Teresa of Avila, tells us, "... be occupied with prayer for those who are defenders of the Church and for preachers and learned men who protect her from attack."

Today more than ever we need to be occupied with prayer as there are many battles going on all around us. Our Church is under attack along with many of the freedoms we are blessed with in our country. Due to the Corona virus many people are dying alone and without the Sacraments, people are paralyzed with fear, there is division all around us and the battle for souls is raging. There is also a battle for the family. Sister Lucia said that Our Lady told her at Fatima that the last battle would be for the family. In the midst of all that is going on, we can take heart in what St. Paul tells us in Romans 8:37: "... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Jesus loves us and is with us. He has given us His Church, the Sacraments and the gifts of faith and prayer. He has given us Mary as our Mother, His Holy Word in the Scriptures and the Power of the Holy Spirit. Our Lady has given us the Rosary. We have everything we need. So, let's take up the battle of prayer and continue to press on and not lose heart.

Prayer takes work and determination and we often struggle to be faithful to our daily personal prayer and to our call as Avila's to faithfully pray for priests. St. Teresa of Avila herself struggled with prayer, as we often do. However, when she struggled, she did not lose heart or give up, rather she followed the directive of her spiritual director and prayed to the Holy Spirit. Scripture tell us in Romans 8:26 that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness for we do not know how to pray as we ought and we are assured that the Spirit always comes to our aid. In the power of the Holy Spirit, St. Teresa persevered and continued to pray even in the most difficult moments of her life. She said, "We must have a determined determination to never give up prayer." She knew the importance and power of pray so she did not give up or lose heart, but continued on with determination in spite of difficulties.

*(continued)*

The Holy Spirit desires to help us and to give us that same determination to battle in prayer. All we have to do is ask. We certainly can't persevere and be faithful to prayer with our own strength, but, like St. Teresa, we can call on the power of the Holy Spirit and the help of the prayers of the Communion of Saints. We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses so that together we can continue to pray in the most difficult situations, push back the powers of darkness and will be enabled to always rejoice in our hope, be patient in tribulation and persevere in prayer. With Jesus and the help of the Holy Spirit, we have strength for everything.

As Avilas, our main purpose is our call to pray for vocations, for the priesthood and for those in religious life. Persevering in our weekly Holy Hour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is of utmost importance. St. Teresa knew the importance of praying for priests and that is why she made prayer for the priesthood a duty of her Carmelite community. They were all "... occupied with prayer for those who are defenders of the Church and for preachers and learned men who protect her from attack." In imitation of our patron, St. Teresa, we, too, need to be occupied with prayer. Prayer must be our life, our passion and the most important thing that we do.

Although we have not been able to meet together regularly for our Avila mornings of prayer, we know that we are of one heart and mind, praying together wherever we are, knowing that God is hearing our prayers and is moving and working for good in ways that we do not see. So, together, wherever we are, let us ask St. Teresa of Avila, the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and all the Saints to pray with us and for us as we ask the Spirit of God to assist us in our prayer. As we rely on the Holy Spirit, we will become more humble, more joyful, more peaceful, more faithful and more determined to persevere. Praying for priests is a privilege and a duty. Let us pray for each other that we take this duty more seriously than ever before as we pray *Sacred Heart of Jesus, send us priests, send us many priests, send us Holy priests.* May we all love Jesus more and more everyday and in the Power of the Holy Spirit make Him known and loved. Lord willing, we will be together in September.

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



*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](mailto:joanevans1130ad@gmail.com) or call her at 440-331-2383.*



**Carol Baranowski**

**Vera Casey**

**Rosetta Comella**

**Ann Edwards**

**Ann Frencel**

**Pat Hesland**

**"K," friend of Anne Williams**

**Barbara Kahoun**

**Regina Lee**

**Ruth Merriman**

**Sara, niece of Regina Lee**

**Jim, nephew of Ellen Patton**

**Rosetta Saraniti**

**Arch Tunnell**

**David Tunnell**

**Son of Arch and Marlyn**



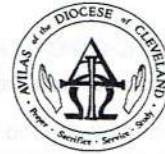
*May the dear Lord Jesus,  
who went about doing good and  
healing all, bless all of our Avila  
members and their families and friends  
who are sick, and let them recover their  
health soon. Amen.*



**Sharon Jordan**  
*on the death of her mother,  
Betty Betts.*

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

**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*

July 2020

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

July	5, 2020	Sisters of St. Francis (Millvale) (OSF)
July	12, 2020	Sisters of St. Francis (Sylvania) (OSF)
July	19, 2020	Sisters of St. Francis (Tiffin) (SSF)
July	26, 2020	Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate (Joliet) (OSF)
August	2, 2020	Congregation of Holy Cross (CSC)

## **PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY**



*Father of justice and truth, we pray for our nation on the anniversary of her birth.  
By Your providence, you led our forefathers to this good land  
where they found liberty and freedom to worship You.*

*We ask Your blessings upon our nation,  
making us mindful of those blessings that we have.*

*We praise and thank you for the freedom we have through the Blood of Your Son,  
especially those we take for granted.*

*We the people, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, desperately need you.*

*We beg for your guidance and wisdom for our leaders.*

*We ask you to protect our land from enemies, both from within and without.*

*Guide our nation in these days of controversy and uncertainty.*

*Guide us by the light of Your Word.*

*May Your Spirit inspire us to work together to meet the challenges we face in these times.*

*We plead with You to forgive us of our national sins which so plague the landscape of our nation.*

*Forgive us that we have chosen convenience over the sanctity of life,  
and personal peace over the pursuit and practice of Your truth.*

*Grant us humility by Your grace in Jesus Christ.*

*With all hope, faith and trust in You, we pray.*

*Amen.*



"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*

August 2020

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

August	2, 2020	Congregation of Holy Cross (CSC)
August	9, 2020	Priests of Holy Cross (Indiana Province) (CSC)
August	16, 2020	Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN)
August	23, 2020	Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Emeritus of Rome
August	30, 2020	Holy Father Pope Francis
September	6, 2020	Holy Ghost Fathers (CSSP)

## **ST. PHILOMENA, POWERFUL WITH GOD**

The Church celebrates the feast of St. Philomena on August 11. Her remains were discovered in 1802 in the Catacomb of Priscilla where the skeleton of a female between the ages of 13 and 15 was found. Embedded in the cement was a small glass phial with what was taken to be blood. In the assumptions of the time, the remains were taken to be those of a virgin martyr named Philomena. Her remains were moved to the Church of our Lady of Grace in Mugnano del Cardinale August 10, 1805 and were placed in the Church of Our Lady of Grace. Several miracles were attributed to her, and she subsequently became the focus of widespread devotion. In 1833, a Neapolitan nun from Naples reported that the saint appeared to her in a vision, revealing Philomena was a Greek princess who was martyred at the age of 13 years by Diocletian, a Roman Emperor from 284 to 305, because she had taken a vow as a consecrated virgin and refused to marry the emperor. She also revealed that her birthday was January 10, that her martyrdom occurred on August 10 (the date also of the arrival of her relics in Mugnano del Cardinale) and that her name "Filumena" meant "daughter of light."

The spread of devotion to St. Philomena in France as well as in Italy was helped when St. John Vianney built a shrine in her honor and referred to her often, attributing to her the miracles that others attributed to himself. The cure of the near-dying Pauline Jaricot, founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, at Philomena's shrine on August 10, 1835, also promoted devotion to the saint. Another miracle of Giovanna Cescutti took place on July 6, 1835, in Venice. St. Damien of Molokai had strong devotion to St. Philomena, naming his church at Kalawao in her honor. Many other saints were devoted to her, including St. Peter Julian Eymard, St. Peter Chanel, St. Anthony Mary Claret, St. Madelaine Sophie Barat, St. Mary Euphrasier Pelletier, St. John Nepomucene Neumann, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Pius X, St. Padre Pio and Blessed Anna Maria Taigi.

St. Philomena is the patron saint of infants, babies and youth.

### **Prayer to St. Philomena**

*To thee, O great St. Philomena, we turn our afflictions, you who stimulate the faith and courage of the faithful, you who art truly worthy of the title, "Powerful with God." Illustrious and faithful virgin and martyr, full of confidence in thy protection, I entreat thee to intercede for me with God. From the heights of heaven, deign to cast a glance upon thy humble client. Spouse of Christ, sustain me in suffering, fortify me in temptation, protect me in the dangers surrounding me and obtain the graces necessary to me. You know the multitude and diversity of my needs, in particular (mention your special intentions). Above all, assist me at the hour of my death. St. Philomena, whose name is glorified in Heaven and feared in hell, Pray for us! Amen.*



**"Whatever you ask from her, She will obtain for you." – Pope Gregory XVI**