

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-NINTH YEAR VOLUME I

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SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2020



**September Avila
Mass, Holy Hour,
and Luncheon
is cancelled.**

**AUTUMN PRAISE
Bob Hostetler**

I praise you, Lord,
for autumn:
for falling temperatures
and morning chill,
trees turned gold and red,
brown and orange,
falling leaves and
blowing leaves,
the joy of leaf-pile jumping.

I praise you, Lord,
for autumn:
the interplay of outside
temperatures and
inside warmth,
the promise of cider
and pumpkin bread,
the blessing of
blankets and sweaters.

I praise you, Lord,
for autumn:
the beauty and hope
in the change of season,
the promise that the
coming autumn
heralds another ending,
a new beginning,
and the wonder of
another winter,
another spring,
another summer,
yet to come.



President's Corner

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

Although we have not been able to meet regularly for our Avila Holy Hour, Mass and luncheon, we still remain of one heart and mind as we continue to pray for the priesthood, for more vocations and for religious life. Covid can't stop us from praying in one accord or rob us of our hope and joy because our hope is in Jesus. We are also surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, the Communion of Saints. Our Blessed Mother, Queen of all Saints, Saint Philomena, patroness of the Living Rosary, St. Joseph, St. Padre Pio and our own patron, St. Teresa of Avila, are a few who give us guidance, encouragement in ways of prayer and pray for us and with us to help us to Pray, Pray, Pray. They are among the great cloud of witnesses spoken of in Hebrews 12:1.

Today I received The Spirit of Medjugorje newsletter which contained the annual message from Blessed Mother to the visionary, Ivanka on June 25, 2020. According to the article, the apparition lasted five minutes. Ivanka said that Our Lady said, "Pray, Pray, Pray!"

Our patron, St. Teresa of Avila, continues to remind us that we are to "Be occupied with prayer and have a determined determination to pray and not lose heart." In other words, keep praying at all times.

At Fatima, our Blessed Mother asked the children to pray the Rosary daily. She asks that of us too. Some of you may remember the song, "Our Lady of Fatima." My mother and I used to sing it all the time ...

*Dear Lady of Fatima, we come on bended knee,
to beg your intercession for peace and unity.*

Dear Mary, won't you show us the right and shining way.

We pledge our love and offer you a rosary each day.

*You promised at Fatima each time that you appeared
to help us if we pray to you and banish war and fear.*

*Dear Lady on First Saturday, we ask your guiding hand
for peace and guidance here on earth and for protection for our land.*



Blessed Mother promised that war and fear would be banished if we pray the Rosary. We certainly need peace, unity, guidance and protection - protection of our land and for protection of our priests and our Church. So take to heart our patron's advice; listen to our Blessed Mother and obey her request to pray a rosary daily and practice the First Saturday Devotions. Pray the Rosary for your priest sons, for vocations and for all of our priests to be holy and faithful to their sacred duty. We pray that they will all have a great love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament and that all will be consecrated to the Blessed Mother.

We are blessed to have all that we need to faithfully heed Blessed Mother's request to Pray, Pray, Pray. Let's try to attend daily Mass as often as we can, adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, pray the rosary daily, read the Word of God and call upon the great cloud of witnesses who are praying with us and for us.

I am praying that we can be together again very soon. Until then,

The Lord bless you and keep you!

The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

(Numbers 6:24-26)

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

"Be gentle to all and stern with yourself."

*"Accustom yourself continually to make many acts of love,
for they enkindle and melt the soul."*

"For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God."

"It is love alone that gives worth to all things."

*"We can only learn to know ourselves and do what we can - namely,
surrender our will and fulfill God's will in us."*

*"Let nothing trouble you, let nothing upset you, let nothing startle you.
All things pass; God does not change. Patience wins all it seeks.
Whoever has God lacks nothing: God alone is enough."*



A Love Song

Majestic sovereign, timeless wisdom, your kindness melts my hard, cold soul.

Handsome lover, selfless giver, your beauty fills my dull, sad eyes.

I am yours, you made me. I am yours, you called me.

I am yours, you saved me. I am yours, you loved me.

I will never leave your presence.

Give me death, give me life. Give me sickness, give me health.

Give me honor, give me shame. Give me weakness, give me strength.

I will have whatever you give.

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.



Vera Casey

Reeves and Rosemary Cochran

Rosetta Comella

Ann Edwards

Ann Frencel

Pat Hesland

Barbara Kahoun

Pat Keating

Regina Lee

Ruth Merriman

Jim, nephew of Ellen Patton

William Rutherford

Brother-in-law of Regina Lee

Rosetta Saraniti

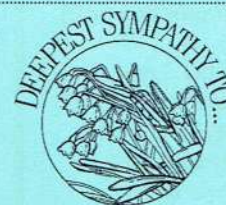
Arch Tunnell

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.*



*To the family and friends of
of past Avila President,
Carol Baranowski.*

*To the family and friends of
Avila member
Angelina Lapp.*

*To Margaret Zeis, Avila Secretary,
on the death of her husband,
Robert.*

*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*

September 2020

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

September 6, 2020	Holy Ghost Fathers (CSSP)
September 13, 2020	Sisters of the Holy Spirit (CSSp)
September 20, 2020	Sisters of the Humility of Mary (HM)
September 27, 2020	Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe) (IHM)
October 4, 2020	Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton) (IHM)

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, celebrated on September 14, recalls the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, mother of the emperor Constantine. In a deeper sense, the feast also celebrates the Holy Cross as the instrument of our salvation. This instrument of torture, designed to degrade the worst of criminals, became the life-giving tree that reversed Adam's Original Sin.

After the death and resurrection of Christ, authorities in Jerusalem made efforts to obscure Christ's tomb in the garden near the site of His crucifixion. The earth had been mounded up over the site and pagan temples had been built on top of it. The Cross on which Christ had died had been hidden (tradition said) by Jewish authorities somewhere in the vicinity. Also according to tradition, Saint Helena, nearing the end of her life, was divinely inspired to travel to Jerusalem in 326 to excavate the Holy Sepulchre (tomb) and try to locate the True Cross. Three crosses were found on the spot. According to one tradition, the inscription *Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* ("Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews") remained attached to the True Cross. According to a more common tradition, however, this was missing, and Saint Helena and Saint Macarius, the bishop of Jerusalem, knowing one was the True Cross and the other two belonged to the thieves crucified alongside Christ, devised a way to determine which was the True Cross. The three crosses were taken to a woman who was near death; when she touched the True Cross, she was healed. In another instance, the body of a dead man was brought to the place where the three crosses were found and laid upon each cross. The True Cross restored the dead man to life.

The Cross is special because Christ used it as the instrument of our salvation. Two thousand years later, we continue to look to the Cross. Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). In doing so, we unite ourselves to the sacrifice of Christ on His Cross. When we participate in the Mass, the Cross is there, too. When we receive the Eucharist, we do not simply unite ourselves to Christ, we nail ourselves to the Cross, dying with Christ so that we might rise with Him. Christianity without the Cross is meaningless. Only by uniting ourselves to Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross can we enter into eternal life. God changed the cross from a sign of death, defeat and grief to sign of hope, promise and expectation. We keep the corpus (body) of Jesus on the cross so that we never forget what Jesus did on the cross two-thousand years ago. The cross is not a piece of art, a symbol or a piece of jewelry. In our simplest prayer we trace the cross on our bodies, "In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit." We trace a cross on our forehead, lips and heart before listening to the gospel. The cross is so much a part of our lives we sometimes forget its power.

The Cross is front and center in just about every Catholic Church. It's at the head of our processions. It's displayed in our homes for us to look at daily. We see everything we most fear: suffering, torment, loss, humiliation, nakedness, hatred, scorn, mockery, ridicule, rejection and death. And the Lord and the Church say, "Look! Don't turn away. Do not hide. Face the crucifix and all it means." Christ said, "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33b)

Jesus Himself told us that each one of us must pick up our crosses and follow Him. But our salvation is being achieved by our picking up our crosses, big or little, no matter what they may be, and following Jesus Christ. The world is living in hatred and division, of violence and wars. It is headed to self-destruction. This is because the world is living away from God and even against His moral principles. It is precisely for the salvation of the world that Jesus offered his life on the cross as ransom so that mankind can be reconciled to God. Jesus Crucified is the salvation for the whole mankind.

Remember when you look at the Cross that Jesus came down from heaven, humbled Himself, loving us enough to accept death on that cross so He could be raised up for us to look upon and be saved. That's the triumph of the cross. That's our salvation.



"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*

October 2020

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

October	4, 2020	Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton) (IHM)
October	11, 2020	Sisters, Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI)
October	18, 2020	Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (SIW)
October	25, 2020	Society of Jesus (Detroit Province) (Jesuits) (SJ)
November	1, 2020	Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ)

SAINT TERESA OF AVILA



How can we as Avilas let the month of October go by without acknowledging our wonderful patroness, St. Teresa of Avila (also called St. Teresa of Jesus). A theologian and marvel of the contemplative life and of mental prayer, she earned the rare distinction of being declared a Doctor of the Church, the first woman so honored, in 1970 by Pope St. Paul VI. Born in 1515, she was one of the great mystics, women and reformers of the Roman Catholic Church. Shortly after entering the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation, her health collapsed and she remained an invalid for three years during which time she developed a love for mental prayer. After her recovery, she stopped praying for 15 years, then underwent a religious awakening.

"At that time, the news reached me of harm being done to the Church, and that the works of her opponents were flourishing. This news distressed me greatly, and I wondered if I could do anything. I cried to the Lord and begged him that I might be his instrument to help remedy such evils ... It was my desire that since the Lord has many enemies, and so few friends, that his few friends should be good ones..."

St. Teresa lived in Spain during the period known as the Reformation. She initiated with St. John of The Cross a reform of her community, seeking that its members would live the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience with greater zeal and vigor. In doing so, they would stand as a witness against the corruptions of the Church and inspire others to see the radical witness of holiness of life. Her writings, which describe her relationship with Jesus Christ with such passion and intimacy, revolutionized the Church's understanding of the spiritual life.

St. Teresa's most famous miracle was the healing of her injured nephew after the wall of a building fell on him and crushed him, apparently killing him. He was brought to Teresa, she held him in her arms and prayed deeply. Minutes later, he came back to life. This miracle was presented at her canonization. Many other miracles occurred in her life.

St. Paul reminds us that in Christ we have been chosen. That should console us, but it should also inspire us to live in accord with His way, even if that means enduring, as St. Teresa did, trials and difficulties. May St. Teresa's example and intercession help us in troubled times. May her radical witness of poverty, chastity and obedience compel us to see that we are changed by our willingness to give ourselves over to Jesus Christ and truly live as his friends.