

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-NINTH YEAR VOLUME II

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NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2020



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

In the Midst of Winter Cal Wick

Lord:

In the midst of winter,
when the days are cold
and wind can pierce,
remind us of the
warmth of your love.

In the midst of winter,
when days are short,
dawn comes late,
and dusk arrives early,
remind us that
in the darkness
Your light still shines.

In the midst of winter,
when the flowers
of spring
still lie hidden
In the earth,
when leaves are
off the trees,
and the world
can seem bleak,
remind us that Easter
is but a short time away.

And when in our lives
we feel as if we are
experiencing a
season of winter,
reach out to us with the
power of Your
Resurrection so that we
may feel the warmth of
Your love and see
Your light that alone can
take away the darkness
of our soul.

President's Corner

GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

"... Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19-20).

Praying that all of you faithful Avila prayer warriors are doing well and continuing to be faithful to your weekly Holy Hour for priests, religious, seminarians and for vocations to the priesthood. I do hope and pray that very soon we will be able to gather for our communal Holy Hour and Luncheon. It will happen in God's time.

In spite of all that is going on in our country and in the world, we still can and should sing and give thanks to God the Father for everything. Yes everything, because we know that nothing happens outside of God's Providence.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

We, of course, should give thanks at all times, but especially at this time of year when our minds and hearts are turned to thankfulness for all the blessings we have received from the Lord and for all of His wondrous deeds.

One of my favorite songs is simply titled, "Give Thanks." The lyrics fill my heart with gratitude for God's most wondrous deed and for His greatest and most treasured gift. Singing also helps me to remember to always give thanks, and also it is said that "singing is praying twice".

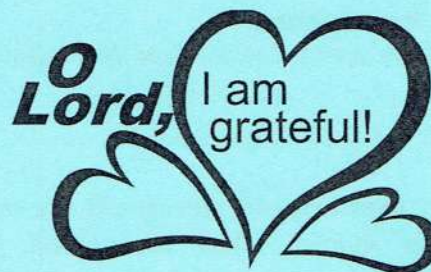
"Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,' let the poor say, 'I am rich'

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

GIVE THANKS!"



(continued)

How grateful we are for Jesus and for the treasured gift of receiving Him in the Holy Eucharist at Holy Mass, a gift we should never take for granted. We experienced the loss of this gift when suddenly our churches were closed and we were unable to receive our Precious Lord.

How grateful we also are for the priesthood because by the words and actions of the priest and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Eucharist" means THANKSGIVING. The Eucharist is a sacrament of thanksgiving and praise to God the Father.

Together, as Avilas, we thank God for all His marvelous deeds and gifts, especially His Son Jesus. Jesus is the greatest gift that we can ever receive! Jesus is the only gift that we ever need!

Let us sing praise and thanks to God our Father "with grateful hearts because He's given Jesus Christ His Son." Let us also remember to pray daily offering prayers of thanksgiving for our priests. I'm sure they would also appreciate a personal thank you or a card thanking them and assuring them of our prayers.

Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas to all!

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

No matter how difficult things have been in 2020, there is always something to be grateful for – always. We just need a little reminder. Take a few moments to really think about these things. You can probably add more to the list:

*Family, friends, being loved
Our priests, our churches, freedom to worship
Our jobs, being able to work from home
Internet access, the convenience of on-line shopping
Our homes, a roof over your head
A bed to sleep in, a good night's sleep, clean sheets
Sleeping in, birds chirping in the morning
Indoor plumbing, heat, air conditioning
Warm clothes
Food to eat, home cooked meals, eating more at home
Music, your favorite song, a good book
An appreciation for a simpler life
Our lives, our health (good or not so good), doctors
Breathing fresh air, sunrises, sunsets
Blue skies, clouds, starry nights
Time (we're always complaining we didn't have enough of it – now we do!)
Our Blessed Mother, the angels and saints*

**Most important:
Mass, Holy Eucharist, Jesus' mercy, Sacrament of Reconciliation**

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
Joan Herchl
Pat Hesland
Barbara Kahoun
Pat Keating
Regina Lee
Ruth Merriman
Jim, nephew of Ellen Patton
Ed Rollins
Son-in-law of Ellen Newcomb
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.**

With Sympathy

**To family and friends of
Avila member
Ann Frencel.**

**To Patricia Hoffman
on the death of her husband
William.**

**To family, friends, and the
Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity
on the death of
Sr. Rochelle Guertal, OSST.**

**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*

November 2020

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

November	1, 2020	Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ)
November	8, 2020	Sisters of St. Joseph (CSJ)
November	15, 2020	Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Mark (Cleveland) (SJSM)
November	22, 2020	Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Mark (Youngstown) (SJSM)
November	29, 2020	Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis (SSJ-TOSF)
December	6, 2020	Society of Our Lady of the Way (Secular Institute)

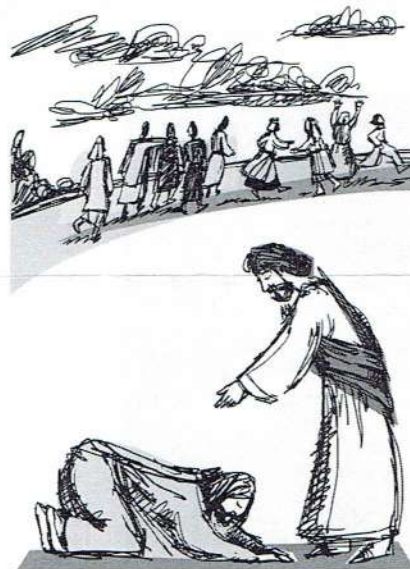
GIVE THANKS TO GOD

We have many reasons to give thanks to God. We petition God often; Thanksgiving Day is a day to give thanks.

So today we want, above all, to give thanks to God for what he has done for us in Jesus. And the greatest and best prayer to give thanks to God is the Eucharist. The very word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving." Every time we go to Mass, we unite ourselves in thanksgiving with the sacrifice of Jesus to his Father.

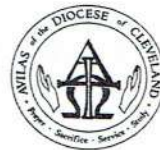
Thanksgiving is a day of opportunity to think back on what we have been given – and to give something in return. We need to honor with grateful hearts what God has done for us. Very often, in our prayer lives, we spend much time on our knees asking God for things. Scripture tells us to ask and we shall receive, and to knock and it will be opened. So we ask, and we knock. But what happens then?

In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus cures ten people of leprosy, but only one – a Samaritan - comes back to say thank you, to give glory to God. Giving thanks is a vital and necessary part of our relationship with God. Through this asking, receiving and thanking, we can discover a measure of faith, of our dependence on God and of our own humility. Because saying thank you can be difficult. The German mystic and philosopher, Meister Eckhart, once wrote: "If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you,' that will suffice."



Try to make your Thanksgiving Day a kind of prayer. As the day unfolds, carry that prayer with you. Live it. Give it. This is, after all, a day for giving — giving thanks. It doesn't have to end when you say grace over the turkey. In fact, it doesn't have to on Thanksgiving evening — God's gifts certainly won't. Every beat of your heart affirms an unmistakable mystery God has given you: life - extravagant, wonderful, painful, tumultuous, challenging life.

Let's strive to remind ourselves of God's blessings wherever we find them, however they come to us. And to give thanks for them, every day, in every moment.



"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 2020

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

December	6, 2020	Society of Our Lady of the Way (Secular Institute)
December	13, 2020	Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette
December	20, 2020	Sisters of the Living Word (SLW)
December	27, 2020	Society of Mary (Marianists) (SM)
January	3, 2021	Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers (MM)

POOR OR RICH?

"For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (II Corinthians 8:9).

This verse is not a commentary on Jesus' economic status or the material circumstances of His life. The Lord's poverty was not the lowly circumstances in which He lived, but in the reality that "though he was in the form of God, (He) did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

Jesus Christ came into the world to save everyone - rich and poor, influential and insignificant, brilliant and ordinary, without distinction. Would people have listened to Him more if He had been born into a wealthy or powerful family? Probably not.

How have you responded to Jesus? Have you turned your back on Him (as many did then and still do)? Or have you come to see Him as He really is: the divine Son of God, sent from Heaven to save us from our sins?



"So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is His way of loving us, His way of being our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbour to the man left half dead by the side of the road. What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of His love. Christ's poverty which enriches us is His taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God's infinite mercy to us. Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus' wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father, his constant trust, his desire always and only to do the Father's will and give glory to Him. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus' wealth lies in his being *the Son*; his unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor.

When Jesus asks us to take up his "yoke which is easy", he asks us to be enriched by his "poverty which is rich" and his "richness which is poor", to share his filial and fraternal Spirit, to become sons and daughters in the Son, brothers and sisters in the firstborn brother." (Pope Francis 12/16/13)