

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-NINTH YEAR VOLUME VI

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JULY, AUGUST 2021

A Summer Blessing

May you walk with God
this summer
in whatever you do,
wherever you go.

Walking with God
means...
walking with honesty
and with courage;
walking with love
and respect
and concern for the
feelings of others.

May you talk to God
this summer,
and every day, and
in every situation.

Talking with God
means...
praying words of praise
for the beauty of
creation;
saying prayers of thanks
for friends and good
times;
asking God's help
in all your decisions;
expressing sorrow
when you have failed.

May you talk with God
every day.

Amen.

—Author Unknown

President's Corner

Be Occupied With Prayer

*I have set the Lord always before me;
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8*

The above Scripture is one of my favorites and always reminds me that no matter what is going on in my life or in the world, Jesus is at my right hand so I will not be shaken. We would all agree that today there is a lot of shaking going on in the world and in the Church. However, we can be confident that King Jesus is with us and is an ever present help in times of distress. We can also be confident as we pray and trust Jesus that our Blessed Mother is always with us, protecting us, guiding us, praying with us and for us. With Jesus at our right hand and Blessed Mother praying with us and guiding us we can pray with confidence for our priests and for our loved ones

Today more than ever our prayers for our priests and for vocations are so important. **We are in a spiritual battle: a battle for souls and a battle for the priesthood.** We see our religious liberties and freedoms slowly being taken away and we have been seeing and hearing about the persecution of priests. Priests who willing lay down their lives for their flock, speak the truth with clarity and boldness and who are faithful to their sacred duty and to all that Scripture and Holy Mother Church teaches. As Avila members, 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 now more than ever of utmost importance.

Dr. Scott Hahn who is the Fr. Michael Scanlan Professor of Biblical Theology and the New Evangelization at the Franciscan University of Steubenville and is the Founder and President of the St. Paul Center, recently wrote about his son who was just ordained. It spoke to my heart about the importance of increasing our prayers and praying unceasingly for our priests. I share his thoughts with you:

“This past Friday, I had the privilege and joy of watching my son Jeremiah be ordained to the priesthood. And while he will always be my son, on the evening of May 21, 2021, he also became my spiritual father.



(continued)

Because priests like my son—who are willing to lay down their lives for their flock—are faced with challenges on all sides. They face spiritual attack from the enemy who *knows* their power to do good and steal souls away for God. But they also face attacks from those in the world, and sadly even from those in the Church, who mistrust the priesthood or downplay its powerful channel of grace. I've always known the importance of praying for and supporting our priests, but now you could say I have additional skin in the game. In addition to Fr. Jeremiah, another of our sons, his younger brother Joseph, is also in formation to become a priest. ***I see praying for and serving and supporting the priesthood as one of the most important things we can do to help the Church.***

Our commitment to pray for priests is very important. Here are a few suggestions for ways to enhance your praying time for priests:

1. Make a daily Morning Offering to God of all your actions and prayers for the sanctification of priests.
2. Attend Mass as often as possible and offer your Holy Communion for clergy who need the most spiritual assistance that day.
3. Offer an individual Holy Hour for all clergy, or for a priest that you know needs prayers. Remember to pray for seminarians, bishops, cardinals, your priest sons, and the Holy Father.
4. Pray a daily rosary for seminarians and priests that they will remain faithful and fervent to their vocations.
5. Offer a Chaplet of Divine Mercy for priests at the three o'clock Hour of Mercy, as often as possible.
6. At noon, offer the Angelus Prayer for priests. It only takes a few moments and in this way you are lifting up the priesthood to Jesus through Mary.
7. Please consider offering your suffering for priests who help countless people carry their cross of suffering.
8. July is the month of the Precious Blood of Jesus, pray The Litany of the Blood of Jesus daily for our priests asking Jesus to protect them from all physical and spiritual dangers.

St. Teresa, our patron, 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, we too need to be occupied with prayer. ***Prayer must be our life, our passion and the most important thing we do. Sacred Heart of Jesus send us priests, send us many priests, send us many Holy priests!***

Missing all of you and looking forward to hopefully meeting personally and praying together in September.

More information will be provided in August.

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



Susan Federico

Arch Tunnell

David Tunnell

Kathleen Woolworth



**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 family and friends of past
Avila President**

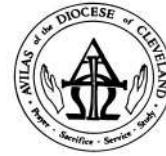
Marie "Bunny" Becker.

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

July 2021

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

July	4, 2021	Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA (OSB)
July	11, 2021	Bishops of the Diocese of Cleveland
July	18, 2021	Christ the Bridegroom Monastery
July	25, 2021	Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, (SSS)
August	1, 2021	Byzantine Poor Clare Nuns (BNSC)

IN GOD WE TRUST

As we celebrate our Independence this month, we often think about fireworks and picnics. But we must also focus in on what God has done and is continuing to do for us to bring about this independence that we celebrate. We should be grateful to be citizens of the United States. Our forefathers were convinced that there was a Higher Power who was involved in the destinies of men and nations and that we were endowed with certain unalienable rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This was evident in the way they wrote and the way our nation developed. Our laws are based on the Ten Commandments and the Bible. The ending words of the Constitution are "in the year of our Lord." Our nation's motto is "in God we trust." Our Pledge of Allegiance says we are "one nation under God." The front of the Supreme Court building has a carving of Moses and Ten Commandments. In the House of Representatives across from the speaker of the house' seat is a sculpture of Moses.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people chosen as his inheritance. – Ps. 33:12

God birthed America. God has blessed America. We are greatly privileged and we must not take freedom for granted. This is a land where anyone can hear the Gospel. As Catholics during this time of crisis in the Church, we must desire our country to come under the rule of Christ the King. We must want a Catholic America. How do we accomplish this? First of all, we must pray and spend time in Adoration. And of course, attend Mass as much as we can. Our priests are working overtime in an effort to lead us, our Church and our country to greater holiness. Pray for our priests; they need our prayers more than ever. Practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Seek to serve your fellow countrymen to the greater glory of God. Catholicism and patriotism go hand in hand when it comes to serving our neighbor in love.

Blessed Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen said, "It is our solemn duty as Catholics, therefore, to be conscious of our duty to America, and to preserve its freedom by preserving its faith in God ... But as we talk about patriotism, it might be well to remind ourselves that in a crisis like this even devotion to the stars and stripes is not enough to save us. We must look beyond them to other stars and stripes, namely the stars and stripes of Christ, by whose stars we are illuminated and by whose stripes we are healed!"

God Bless America!





“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 2021

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

August	1, 2021	Byzantine Poor Clare Nuns (BNSC)
August	8, 2021	Carmel of the Holy Family (OCD)
August	15, 2021	Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA)
August	22, 2021	Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati (SC)
August	29, 2021	Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill (SC)
September	5, 2021	Daughters of Divine Charity (FDC)

SAINT MAXIMILIAN MARY KOLBE, PRIEST AND MARTYR

Maximilian Maria Kolbe (born Rajmund Kolbe on January 8, 1894) was a Polish Catholic priest and Conventual Franciscan friar. Part of a very holy Catholic family, his life was strongly influenced at age 12 by a vision of the Virgin Mary: “That night I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both.”

Kolbe entered the novitiate in 1910 and chose the religious name Maximilian. He professed his first vows in 1911, final vows in 1914, adopting the additional name of Maria (Mary) and was ordained a priest in 1918. He organized the Militia Immaculatae (Army of the Immaculate One) to work for conversion of sinners and enemies of the Catholic Church through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. On February 17, 1941, his monastery was shut down by German authorities and Kolbe and four others were arrested by the Gestapo, imprisoned and transferred to Auschwitz on May 28.



Continuing to act as a priest, Kolbe was subjected to violent harassment, beating and lashings. At the end of July 1941, one prisoner escaped from the camp, prompting the deputy camp commander to pick ten men to be starved to death in an underground bunker to deter further escape attempts. When one of the select cried out, “My wife! My children!” Kolbe volunteered to take his place. According to an eyewitness, each time the guards checked, he was standing or kneeling in the middle of the cell praying and looking calmly at those who entered. After they had been starved and deprived of water for two weeks, only Kolbe survived. The guards wanted the bunker emptied, so they gave Kolbe a lethal injection of carbolic acid. He is said to have raised his left arm and calmly waited for the deadly injection. “For Jesus Christ, I am prepared to suffer still more.” He died on August 14, and his remains were cremated on August 15, the feast day of the Assumption of Mary.

On October 10, 1982, Pope John Paul II canonized Kolbe and declared him a confessor, martyr of charity and “The Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century.” His feast day is 14 August, the day of his death. Due to Kolbe’s efforts to promote consecration and entrustment to Mary, he is known as the Apostle of Consecration to Mary. Franciszek Gajowniczek, the man he saved at Auschwitz, survived the Holocaust and was present as a guest at both the beatification and the canonization ceremonies.

The Franciscan Friars of Mary Immaculate are inspired by Kolbe’s spiritual way: “Our patron, St. Maximilian Kolbe, inspires us with his unique Mariology and apostolic mission, which is to bring all souls to the Sacred Heart of Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Christ’s most pure, efficient, and holy instrument of evangelization – especially those most estranged from the Church.”

St. Maximilian Kolbe is an inspiration to all of us, especially to priests everywhere.