

# Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTIETH YEAR VOLUME I

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SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2021



## REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,  
September 15, 2021

PLEASE GATHER AT  
Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine  
St. Anne's Dining Hall  
10:30AM

Mass/Holy Hour/Luncheon

### SPEAKER:

Reverend Jacob Bearer  
Parochial Vicar  
St. Columbkille, Parma

*The luncheon is included in your dues as Active Members. We presume the presence of Active Members at each Luncheon, however, due to the fact that we have not been meeting, we would ask that ALL members, Active and Sustaining who plan on attending the luncheon to kindly call or text the Registration Chairman, Diana Capretta, 216-396-0358, to make a reservation. Reservations should be made by noon on Wednesday, September 8th.*

*Sister needs an accurate count a week prior to the luncheon to order the food.*

*Thank you!*

## President's Corner

*"The priest is a gift from the Heart of Christ;  
a gift for the Church and the World."*

*Pope Benedict XVI*

Although we have not been able to have our regular Avila meetings I'm confident that all have been faithfully praying for our priests. With so much going on in our Country, the World and the Church it is more important than ever to pray for our priests to be strong and of good courage, to speak the truth boldly, to be faithful to their sacred duty and to proclaim that Jesus is Lord unashamedly. They truly are a gift for the Church and the world and it is our privilege and duty to pray for them.

St. John Vianney, the patron Saint of parish priests, once said, "After God the priest is everything." St. John Vianney was known for giving the utmost dedication to his parish at Ars, France. He was a Holy Priest who was faithful to his Sacred Duty in spite of persecution and hardship. He kept keeping on. I recently read that he is not only the patron saint of priests but also known as a miracle worker. So as we pray for our priests let us ask his intercession along with the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and of course our patron St Teresa of Avila.

Our priests daily bring us Jesus in the Eucharist, spend many hours hearing confessions, minister to the sick and dying, and administrating the sacraments. They are there in times of joy and sorrow. May we never take the gift of their holy priesthood for granted. May we always remember to pray for them give them our love and respect and assist them in any we are able.

I encourage as many of you as possible to attend our September meeting as we gather for Mass, Holy Hour and lunch. We will meet on September 15, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

In Blessed Mothers Approved Apparitions to the Visionaries in Kibeho, Our Lady urged them to spread this devotion, which had been forgotten by many over the years. Perhaps we will consider praying the rosary of the Seven Sorrows for our priests. Blessed Mother graciously bestows her favors on us when we take the time to reflect on her Sorrows and ask for her guidance and assistance. Two of the promises she gives are "I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my divine Son and I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives. Our priests, Church, and World are in great need at this time. I leave you with a prayer from our patron St. Teresa of Avila.

*(continued)*

## **St. Teresa of Avila's Prayer for the Church in Need**

*Our Father in heaven, You are merciful!*

*I cannot think that You, Lord, would refuse to do what we beseech You for the honor of Your Son. Lord, we ask not for our sake, for we are not deserving; but for the sake of the Blood of Your Son and of His merits.*

*We also ask for the sake of the merits of His glorious Mother and that of so many martyrs and saints who died for Your Name.*

*O Eternal Father, let not so many lashes, wounds, and torments, which Your Son suffered be forgotten. O my Creator, it hurts me to see such a loving Heart as Yours suffering because of such little care for what Your Son did for us!*

*The world is burning! They want to sentence Christ anew! They want to flatten the Church to the ground, destroy the temples, lose many souls, and take away the Sacraments! Why is this happening, my Lord and my God?*

*Either put an end to the world, or provide a remedy for so grave an evil that spares no heart, not even those of us who are bad. Lord, I beseech You, suffer this no more. Start a fire, Lord. If You will it, You can. There must be some way, O Lord. Act now then, O Majesty! Have pity on so many souls who are being lost, and favor Your Church. Do not permit more harm to Christendom. Lord, make Light prevail over darkness. Now Lord. . . Now!*

*O Lord, make the sea be calm, and stop the ship of the Church from navigating in such a storm!*

*Save us, O Lord, for we perish! Amen.*

## **SAINTS THAT OUR SEMINARIANS SEEK TO MODEL**

### **St. John Vianney, Patron of Parish Priests**

*If we really understood the priest on earth, we would die: not of fear, but of love." St. John Vianney's whole life could be summed up in this saying attributed to him.*

*Known as the "Cure d'Ars," Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney was born on 8 May 1786 in France in the town of Dardilly, near Lyons. His devout Catholic Parents were farmers, and from an early age, John worked in the fields.*

*As a young man, formation was filled with obstacles, in his studies of Latin and in societal situations. As Avilas we can offer prayerful support for our own seminarians who also face obstacles during their years of formation.*

*In 1818, Father John Vianney was sent to the town of Ars, which, with just 230 residents, was little more than a small French village. Here the young priest dedicated all his efforts to the spiritual care of the faithful. He visited the poorest families, restored the village Church, organized patronal feast days. He also founded La Providence, a home for girls.*

*It was for his dedication to the Sacrament of Confession that St. John Vianney is best known. He was always available to hear confessions and offer forgiveness, spending up to sixteen hours a day in the confessional. As an intercessory prayer to our Avila prayers, we can pray for future confessors within our local diocese and Church of Cleveland.*

*Having given his whole life for God and his parishioners, John Vianney died on 4 August 1859. He was 73 years old. His relics can be found in Ars and in various Churches within our own Diocese of Cleveland.*



**Greg Evans  
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 Active Avila  
Norma Mlady.**

**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*

September 2021

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups

September	5, 2021	Daughters of Divine Charity (FDC)
September	12, 2021	Sisters of Divine Providence (CDP)
September	19, 2021	Sisters of the Divine Redeemer (SDR)
September	26, 2021	Sisters of St. Dominic (Adrian) (OP)
October	3, 2021	Dominican Sisters of Peace (Akron) (OP)

## **MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH**

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said that, since the Church was mystically "born" from the side of Christ, there was a birth taking place, and so there had to be a mother. Mary was present at the cross and received from her divine Son a new role as mother of the living: "Woman, behold, your son" (John 19:26).

Who participated in the mysteries of the life of Christ in a prominent way? Mary, of course! It was she who carried Jesus in her womb. She stood by while He hung on the Cross. She was present in the Upper Room, praying with the first Christian community, awaiting the gift of the Holy Spirit for all believers (Acts 1:14). Finally, she was assumed body and soul into heaven in imitation of her Son. These moments in Mary's life demonstrate her close participation in the mysteries of the life of Jesus.

Pope St. Paul VI officially bestowed upon Mary the title of "Mother of the Church" at the closing of the third session of the Second Vatican Council in 1964. This title confirms Mary's spiritual motherhood which is tied up with the nature of the Church.

Pope John Paul described Our Lady in his March 25, 1987, Marian encyclical, *Redemptoris Mater*:

*"Mary is present in the Church as the Mother of Christ, and at the same time as that Mother whom Christ, in the mystery of the Redemption, gave to humanity in the person of the Apostle John [cf. John 19:27]. Thus, in her new motherhood in the Spirit, Mary embraces each and every one in the Church, and embraces each and every one through the Church."*

St. Aelred of Rievaulx (died 1167), a Cistercian abbot and a contemporary of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, explained Mary's role as our spiritual mother:

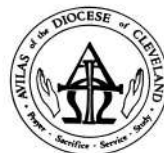
*We owe [Mary] honor, for she is the mother of our Lord. He who fails to honor the mother clearly dishonors the Son. Also, Scripture says: "Honor your father and your mother." ... Then we were born, far better than through Eve, through Mary the blessed [one], because Christ was born of her. We have recovered new life in place of sin, immortality instead of mortality, light in place of darkness. She is our mother—the mother of our life, the mother of our redemption, the mother of our light. As the apostle Paul says of our Lord, "He became for us, by God's power, our wisdom and justice, our holiness and redemption." Mary, then, as mother of Christ, is the mother of our wisdom and justice, of our holiness and redemption. She is more our mother than the mother of our flesh. Our birth from her is better, for from her is born our holiness, our wisdom, our justice, our sanctification, our redemption.*

We all received new life in Christ, and Mary gave life to him by conceiving and giving birth to him. Therefore, we can say with St. Aelred that Mary gave us life also, since we share in the very life Christ received from her. This makes Mary's role for us one of being a mother of life. She is always spiritually mediating or transmitting life to us through and in Christ, who dwells within us.

Here in part is the 2018 decree establishing the feast:

*Having attentively considered how greatly the promotion of this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety, Pope Francis has decreed that the "Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church," should be inscribed in the Roman Calendar on the Monday after Pentecost and be now celebrated every year.*

The Church could use Our Lady's intercession in her present trials, but we need not fear, nor have anxiety. As the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe said to Juan Diego, "Am I not here, your Mother?"



“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 2021

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

October	3, 2021	Dominican Sisters of Peace (Akron) (OP)
October	10, 2021	Religious of the Eucharist (RE)
October	17, 2021	Evangelizing Sisters of Mercy
October	24, 2021	Felician Sisters (CSSF)
October	31, 2021	Priests of the Diocese of Cleveland
November	7, 2021	Religious Teachers Filippini (MPF)

## **PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

Pope Pius IX proclaimed the solemnity of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church in a decree on December 8, 1870, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, his well-beloved spouse. He did this during very troubled times when the world was facing a lot of darkness and the Church was facing a lot of persecution. Here is the decree in part:

*God made Joseph Lord and Ruler of His household and possessions, the Guardian of His greatest treasures ... On account of this sublime dignity which God conferred on His most faithful Servant, the Church has always most highly honored and lauded the Most Blessed Joseph next after his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has implored his intercession in all her great necessities ... Our Most Holy Lord, Pius IX, Pope, ... solemnly declared him Patron of the Catholic Church, and commanded his festival, occurring on the 19th of March, to be celebrated as a double of the first class, but without an octave on the account of Lent.*

Moving forward to the present, we see how the Church is being persecuted, troubled by sin and evil, especially crimes against life. And who do we turn to? We turn to St. Joseph because he remains our patron in these dark times.

Joseph of Nazareth was entrusted with the care of Jesus and Mary, God's greatest treasures. St. Joseph protected Mary and preserved her from public shame. He preserved her virginity and purity of heart.

Father Donald Calloway, vicar provincial and vocation director for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and author of *“Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father,”* points out the need to go to Joseph today. “A lot of the crisis and the real craziness going on in the world today includes a lot of confusion about the family, marriage, gender identity, confusion about what a man and a woman are, and about fatherhood, especially what the roll of a father is, even 150 years later, after St. Joseph was named patron of the universal Church,” he said. He also emphasized, “Joseph’s patronage over the domestic church is especially important in our time. To renew the Church, and re-evangelize society, we must strengthen the everyday life of faith within Catholic families.” St. Joseph is also “Terror of Demons,” a powerful title showing that “St. Joseph was protecting his wife and son from the evil one,” Father Calloway explained. “That’s what needs to happen today, with lots of threats and attacks coming at the family from different sources. We need to be protected, and St. Joseph protects his loved ones.”

St. Joseph is also a great hope and model for the clergy. As a part of the universal Church, one can run to St. Joseph and ask his intercession. He is before the throne of God. His will is intimately tied with God’s will, the Triune God. His prayers are efficacious. His intercession is very powerful.

### **Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church**

Most powerful patriarch St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, which has always invoked thee in anxiety and trouble, from the exalted seat of thy glory cast a loving glance upon the whole Catholic world. Let thy fatherly heart be touched at the sight of the mystical spouse and the Vicar of Christ overwhelmed with sorrow and persecuted by powerful enemies.

Oh! by the bitter anguish thou didst experience upon earth, dry the tears of the venerable Pontiff, defend him, liberate him, intercede for him with the Giver of peace and charity, that, all adversity being removed, and all error dissipated, the entire Church may serve God in perfect liberty. Amen.

**Leo XIII, March 4, 1882**