

# Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTIETH YEAR VOLUME II

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NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2021



## REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,  
November 17, 2021

PLEASE GATHER AT  
Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine  
St. Anne's Dining Hall  
10:00AM

Mass/Holy Hour/Luncheon

*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, November 10th.*

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

**Thank you!**

## President's Corner

*"I will give thanks and praise to the Lord. With all my heart;  
I will tell aloud all Your wonders and marvelous deeds." Psalm 9:1*

My heart was filled with gratitude and praise to God as we gathered together as Avilas to pray at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in September. It was so good to be together again to pray for our priests, for Holy Mass and Adoration and to share a meal. We were all so blessed by Father Jacob Bearer's inspiring and encouraging talk. We had at least 65 members including guests in attendance!! Glory to God! Looking forward to seeing you all again for our November 17th Luncheon.

**It is good to give thanks and praise to God at all times and with all of our hearts.**

No matter what is happening in the world or in our personal lives we know that God is good, He is Faithful, He keeps his promises, He is a God of Majesty and Power and has done and continues to do marvelous deeds. He is all Holy, all Mighty and is worthy of our praise, worship, and thanks.

**Thanksgiving should always be part of our spiritual lives.**

We find this everywhere in the Bible and many Saints also remind us to always be thankful. So for a little encouragement, here's what some of the Saints and the Scripture have to say about having a heart that is grateful;

**St. Teresa of Avila**, our patron—"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God and in all things give him thanks." **St. Margaret Mary Alacoque**—"Would that I could exhaust myself in acts of thanksgiving and gratitude towards this Divine Heart, for the great favor He shows us." **St. Josemaria Escriva**—"Get used to lifting your heart to God in acts of Thanksgiving, many times a day. Because he gives you this and that. Because you have been despised. Because you haven't what you need or because you have. Thank him for everything, because everything is good." **St. Gianna Beretta Molla**—"The Secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness."

**Psalm 118:1** "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever." **1 Thessalonians 5:16** "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." **Hebrews 12:28** "Therefore since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe." **Colossians 4:2** "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

At this time of year as we gather with our families and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, our minds and hearts are turned to thankfulness for all the blessings, graces and even the sufferings we have received from the Lord and for all His wondrous deeds

God's most wondrous deed of all is giving us His Son, Jesus. How grateful we are to have the gift of receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at Holy Mass. How grateful we 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.

As we remember with gratitude all of God's wondrous deeds, let's be sure, in this holy and joyful time of year, to remember to thank God for sending us holy priests and ask Him to send us more. We also pray for our priests with great gratitude, thanking them and assisting them in any way we can. May we never take their priesthood for granted. St. John Vianney reminds us that "After God the priest is everything".

Together as Avila's we thank God daily for all His marvelous deeds and gifts especially for the gift of His Son Jesus. Jesus is the greatest gift that we can ever receive. Jesus is the only gift we ever need!! Let us pray for one another that we will always receive Him worthily, with pure and contrite hearts, great love, adoration and much gratitude.

*"SWEET SACRAMENT WE THEE ADORE  
O, MAKE US LOVE THEE MORE AND MORE!"*

**Happy Thanksgiving and Blessed Christmas to all**

*Peace in Jesus and Mary,  
Marlyn Tunnell*



**Susan Federico**

**Arch Tunnell**

**David Tunnell**



**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.**

**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**

### AVILA LUNCHEON SPEAKER—SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

What a joyous occasion it was when we were finally able to be together again after more than a year! The Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity gladly welcomed us at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Euclid for our September 15 luncheon. Our guest speaker was Father Jacob Bearer, currently assigned to St. Columbkille Parish as Parochial Vicar.

As he told his vocation story, it was evident that Father Bearer did not come from a traditional Catholic home. Other than his grandmother, he had no solid Catholic influence as a youth and young adult and, if anything, he grew up as a Baptist. Though he did not see any specific value in Christianity, he always had a sense, however, that God was real and that He was important. He was hungry for an encounter with the living God, and wanted to see Christianity in the flesh. While he wondered about other religions, he was very influenced by a friend who was consistently living the Christian life, always reading the Bible. While participating in a youth group, he had a life transforming experience, crying out, "I love you, Jesus!"

Father's grandmother gave him a rosary and taught him how to say it. He said many rosaries. He knew he needed to go to Confession before receiving the Eucharist, and the priest he confessed to told him "Welcome home!" He often attended 6:45 am morning Mass and made many middle of the night holy hours. Jesus had turned his life upside down! He applied to the seminary during his senior year.

Although seminary was very stressful at times, it was there that Father Bearer had a very strong encounter with Jesus Christ, and was baptized in the Holy Spirit. He was ordained on May 10, 2017, and now has a strong dedication to healing ministry and has seen many miracles and the power of the Risen Lord.

Father gave us a lot of advice during his talk. We should not assume that all seminarians come from solid Catholic families. Fifty percent of seminarians come from divorced homes, so we must refrain from saying, "Your family must be proud (you are in the seminary)." Rather, we must take time to learn their stories. Priests are no longer revered, and many are going through an identity crisis during these difficult times in the Church so it is very important that, as Avilas, we must go deeper in our prayers for priests. He encouraged us to have a personal relationship with Jesus, knowing He is at work in our lives.

We are grateful for Father Bearer's presence at our Avila Meeting. He hopes his story will encourage many people to pray for priests.



“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 2021

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

November	7, 2021	Religious Teachers Filippini (MPF)
November	14, 2021	Order of Friars Minor—Sacred Heart Province (OFM)
November	21, 2021	Franciscans (Pulaski, Wisconsin) (OFM)
November	28, 2021	Conventual Franciscans (OFM Conv)
December	5, 2021	Capuchin Franciscan Friars (OFM Cap)

## **ST. CHARLES BORROMEO**

November 4 is the feast day of St. Charles Borromeo, patron of our own Borromeo Seminary here in Cleveland. Born in 1538 of an aristocratic and wealthy family, he was raised in an extremely religious atmosphere. He was marked for the priesthood at age 12 and educated with that goal in mind. He studied theology and also earned a doctorate in civil and canon law. When his uncle became Pope Pius IV, he was given many responsibilities, including the position of Secretary of State to the Pope, and was given a Cardinal's hat, even though he was not an ordained priest. He had many friends, played the violin, went hunting and enjoyed his life. In 1562, the Pope was appointed to organize the upcoming Council of Trent. The death of his brother that same year had a profound effect on him, forcing him to look at the meaning and purpose of his life, and he resolved to be holy and make the Church a holier place, as well. He rewrote the catechism, started reforms in the preparation of candidates for the priesthood and ordered changes in the prayer book of the church among many other changes. He was ordained to the priesthood and consecrated as Archbishop of Milan in 1563.



As Archbishop, he adopted a simple lifestyle, giving much of his wealth to the poor. He was an energetic reformer, and made many visits to parishes, organized diocesan administration, established schools, colleges and seminaries and founded a confraternity to teach Christian doctrine to children. When a deadly plague and famine came upon Milan in 1576, he nursed the sick and made efforts to feed nearly 70,000 people daily, borrowing large sums of money to do so. When civil authorities fled the city, St. Charles Borromeo remained, ministering to the sick and dying and helping others in need. He was usually seen in rags, lived a life of prayer, slept little and ate less. He once said, “Here all kinds of poor will be housed, outsiders as well as Milanese; men, women, children because charity knows no distinction of nations, and we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord.”

In 1583, he was appointed Apostolic Visitor to Switzerland to oversee affairs of the church there. While traveling to some outlying districts in his diocese, the work wore him down, he fell ill with a heavy fever and was returned to Milan on a stretcher. He was given the last Sacraments, and died in 1584 at the age of 46. He was beatified on May 12, 1602, by Pope Paul V. He was subsequently canonized by Pope Paul V on November 1, 1610. His feast day is celebrated on November 4. He is the patron of bishops, catechists, cardinals, seminarians, and spiritual leaders.

A loving reformer, St. Charles Borromeo cared about people and wanted them to know that the Church cared about them as well. His reforms in the Church changed the way that the Church listened to all people, not just the rich and powerful. He devoted his entire life to helping the people of God become more like Jesus. His life reminds us that we can all make a difference in the Body of Christ, reaching out in special ways to help those around us and making the face of God more real in the world.



“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 2021

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

December	5, 2021	Capuchin Franciscan Friars (OFM Cap)
December	12, 2021	Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS)
December	19, 2021	Sisters of St. Francis (Chicago) (OSF)
December	26, 2021	Sisters of St. Francis (Millvale) (OSF)
January	2, 2022	Sisters of St. Francis (Sylvania) (OSF)

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



On the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church places before us the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. God wants our families to be a reflection of the Holy Family. Jesus was born a member of a family, the Holy Family of Nazareth. God chose a family to show us how all families are to find their way to Him.

The family is the basic unit of society and the Church. Families did not come about by accident. The family is part of God's plan for us. God wants our families to be holy. We could say the family is like a little Church. It is in the family that we first learn to communicate, that we learn what love is, that we first learn to love and pray, that we learn values. It is in the family that we first learn about God, Jesus and Mary. The future of humanity depends on the family.

There are many attempts to destroy and redefine the family in our times, but they do not reflect God's plan for the family. God wants our families to be holy. The Holy Family had many trials and overcame them through prayer and faith. Our families also overcome challenges through prayer and faith, remaining united in love as did Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family survived their trials by loving each other and God. Love and forgiveness hold our families together in times of difficulty. Whenever our families are successful, it is because they are places of love.

In a message to the Pontifical Council for the Family, November 22, 2001, Pope St. John Paul II said, “Family, believe in what you are; believe in your vocation to be a luminous sign of God's love ... Family, be for the people of our time a ‘sanctuary of life.’ Christian family, be a ‘domestic church,’ faithful to your evangelical vocation.”

Are our families fulfilling God's plans for us? When families reflect God's plan, they are mighty. Let us pray that our families will conquer all their difficulties through love for each other and faith in God.

*Lord, I do offer myself to You this day and in doing so I offer You my family.  
I offer every relationship, be it good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face.  
Please come and sanctify my family, making it holy in imitation of your family in Nazareth.  
Jesus, I trust in You.*