

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTIETH YEAR VOLUME V

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MAY, JUNE 2022



REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,
May 18, 2022

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

Mass/Holy Hour/Luncheon

SPEAKER:

Rev. Jeremy Merzweiler
Pastor
St. Francis de Sales Parish
Akron

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, May 11th.

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

Thank you!

"God wishes to establish in the world Devotion to My Immaculate Heart!"

The above words were given to the three children during the Fatima apparitions.

The month of May brings to mind the Heart of the Blessed Mother and keeps us focused on Mary, our Mother and Queen of Peace. We pray the rosary with great fervor which is more needed today than ever. We pray with great devotion to Blessed Mother and remember her as the Queen of Heaven as we place crowns of flowers on her images to show our love and to ask her Motherly intercession for all of our needs. It is also important that we renew our Consecration to Blessed Mother daily and if we have never made a Consecration I suggest reading True Devotion to Mary by St. Louis DeMontfort. St. Louis prophesied in his book that True Devotion to Mary would be the way of life adopted by the great saints of the latter times. It is also important to recall the apparitions in Fatima and take seriously Blessed Mothers requests. In these times in which we are living with all that is going on in our nation and in the world there is an urgency to know what Our Lady requested and to do what she asks of us.

During the Fatima apparition, on June 13, 1917, Our Lady revealed an important part of God's plan for salvation and peace—**Devotion to her Immaculate Heart**. Blessed Mother told Lucia that she would take the three visionaries to Heaven—Fracisco and Jacinta soon. "But you are to stay here some time longer. Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world Devotion to my Immaculate Heart." Lucia was her apostle for the spread of this devotion for many years. In July, Our Lady told them: "You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish **Devotion to my Immaculate Heart**. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace...but if people do not cease offending God, a worse war will break out...To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays." Blessed Mother also requested that we stop offending Jesus, Pray the Rosary every day, Offer sacrifices and suffering for ourselves and for sinners, Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to make Reparation on the First Saturday of five consecutive months. We are requested to go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary and meditate for fifteen minutes on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary. Today God is being greatly offended by our own personal sins and the sins of our nation. **The hour is late, we are living in a time of purification and chastisement** We all need to repent of our sins and pray for our Country, and for the whole world to repent for all the ways we have and are offending God. **The hour is late, but if we do what Mary has asked perhaps the chastisement and purification will be lessened or shortened.** Blessed Mother has been warning us for years and most of us have not listened to her requests nor have we heeded them. **As you all know Pope Francis Consecrated Russia and Ukraine to Mary's Immaculate Heart and called us to repentance, now let us also do our part. Let's heed Blessed Mother's request at Fatima and pray the rosary daily, wear our scapulars, daily renew our consecration and spread Devotion to her Immaculate Heart. Most importantly Our Lady is asking us to live in a spirit of reparation to atone for the sins committed against her Immaculate Heart setting aside, for this purpose, the first Saturday of the month. God wants us so much to make acts of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary that to those who embrace this practice He makes two promises: Peace in the world and the salvation of souls.** The First Saturday devotion is urgent in order to obtain peace and to stop wars. It is never too late, but we must listen to Our Lady and obey her requests.

(continued)

As Avila's, let's pray for one another that we will be faithful to praying our rosary and to make reparation as our Lady requested. Let's also increase our prayers for priests, seminarians, and religious asking Our Lady to keep them safe in the refuge of her Immaculate Heart and strengthen them to persevere, to speak Truth and to have Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and spread that devotion to others.

Blessed Mother assures us that in the end her Immaculate Heart will Triumph!

Peace in Jesus and Mary, Marilyn Tunnell

"GRACE HELPS US IN VIRTUE"

The Avilas were honored to have Father Robert Franco celebrate Mass and speak at our March 16 meeting. Father Franco came from a typical Catholic family who were faithful to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. His parents were active in the Christ Renews His Parish program, and his mother worked in the pre-Cana group. He attended Catholic school and was confirmed at St. John Bosco. He attended Valley Forge High School where he played football, and he continued his religious education through PSR and continued to be faithful to Mass.

Father felt a battle for his soul. Like his peers he experienced cultural changes and challenges as a teenager: rock 'n roll, girls and parties. But he felt a great longing for God in his heart. One day, when he was 17 years old, he asked himself, "What's it all about? Why am I here?" He knew deep down that it was about Jesus who gives him meaning, purpose and a direction for his life. He desired to love his faith and was asked to be on a high school retreat team called "Impact." He went on to attend college at Ohio State University, and the Lord continued to ask him big questions: "Who do you say I am? If you died, why should I let you into heaven?" He participated in a Bible study group, prayed, went to the Newman Center often and continued to attend Sunday Mass.

After the first quarter, Father returned home for a six to eight week break and attended a charismatic prayer meeting. He was impacted and convicted, yet he was scared - scared he would have to change. He asked himself, "If God is real, why shouldn't we express our love to Him?" He returned to school and began to participate in a prayer group there. While back home, he attended a Life in the Spirit program at St. Joseph Christian Life Center and attended another one after Spring break. That Saturday evening, he surrendered his life to the Lord! "I give You my life! You take over!" Back at school, he again attended a Bible study, was faithful to daily prayer and had much more enthusiasm. The group would meet at 6:00 am, go to breakfast, then classes. It was then that he began to think about the seminary, and attended a retreat in the Fall of his sophomore year. He felt more filled with God's presence when he attended Mass and went to Holy Communion. Though his father urged him to return to school to get his degree, he prayed whether or not he should enter the seminary. He finally applied and was accepted in the Fall of 1976 and was ordained on June 12, 1982.

Father is faithful to his daily prayer and office. He has a special devotion to the Blessed Mother and says a daily Rosary. He was blessed to attend a world-wide retreat for priests in 1984, and has traveled to Rome, Assisi and Medjugorje. In 1983, he attended a program at the University of Steubenville for priests and deacons, and later formed the Fraternity of Priests where priests meet to pray, share and provide spiritual direction for each other. God continued to work in Father's life in many ways. He prayed to become a pastor at a parish with a school and was assigned as pastor to St. Peter Parish in North Ridgville. Father reminded us that God continues to work in our lives to help us grow in holiness, to fulfill our vocation and to direct others to Christ. He pointed out that we have much younger pastors in our diocese now, and they need our prayers. He asked us to continue to pray for all priests, is personally grateful for the Avilas' support of his priesthood. He said, "Grace helps us in virtue."



Anthony Czap

Greg Evans

Rose Saraniti

Arch Tunnell

David Tunnell



**For prayer requests contact Joan Evans at
joanevans1130ad@gmail.com or
440-331-2383.**



**The family and friends of
Avila member
Virginia (Ginny) Fox.**

NEW AVILA OFFICERS 2022-2024

**President
Marianne Repinski**

**Vice-President
Kathy Woodworth**

**Secretary
Margaret Zeis**

**Treasurer
Toni Will**

**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*

May 2022

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

May	1, 2022	Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Mark (Cleveland) (SJSM)
May	8, 2022	Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Mark (Youngstown) (SJSM)
May	15, 2022	Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis (SSJ-TOSF)
May	22, 2022	Society of Our Lady of the Way (Secular Institute)
May	29, 2022	Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette
June	5, 2022	Sisters of the Living Word (SLW)

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

What must it have been like for the Apostles after a cloud took the Lord from their sight? They lost Him once before when He was crucified, but this was different. All their hopes were crushed when He died on the cross; they felt desolation and abandonment, not understanding then that He would rise from the dead. Two men dressed in white appeared to them and said, ““Why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven” (Acts 1:11). For three years of Jesus’ earthly life and for 40 days after His resurrection, the Apostles lived in daily contact with Him while he taught and instructed them, gave sight to the blind, calmed the storm, multiplied the loaves and fish and raised Lazarus from the dead, certainly not the things of ordinary life. Now they were by themselves. Jesus had ascended to Heaven and was no longer visibly present. But He promised He would not abandon them and that He would send the Holy Spirit to give them the power to fulfill their mission to bear witness to the true and eternal life given by God to man. He also left them His hidden presence in the Eucharist.

Today, what is left of Jesus’ work and the Apostles’ mission? From twelve Apostles, the Church has grown to the ends of the earth. Those who received the Apostles’ message have believed in Jesus Christ and have lived by that faith. From the preaching of the Apostles, the Church has grown numerically and geographically, and within the Church there has also been growth into the limitless depths of grace. After 2000 years, the Church is still here, with Christ at the right hand of the Father, reigning. Miracles continue to this day, and the Church has remained as the great sign confirming the truth of the Gospel, the truth of Jesus Christ. The visible body proclaims essentially the same teaching as summed up in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Church has a roster of saints from every time since the beginning, in every place she has been present, from all walks of life, levels of education, and social classes. There are no doubt that saints are living among us today. The Church celebrates the same seven sacraments received from Christ and is ruled by the same hierarchy of bishops under the Pope that can be traced back to the time of the Apostles.

Today, within the body of the Church, the traditional doctrine of faith and morals is widely challenged and rejected, and the sacraments have been abused and profaned. A great many Catholics no longer believe that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ, yet there are still those who celebrate the sacraments with faith and devotion. The Church has been through great trials in the past. The true reality of holiness has not changed. It feels like Christ is saying, “You have received the message; you have received the sacraments; you have received the gift of the Holy Spirit; you know what you must do. Will you be faithful even when I am not visibly present? Will you show your undying love for Me in the midst of trial?” The angel told the Apostles to stop watching and get to work. We, too, have to just stop watching and get up. There is no time to sit around and wait for something to happen.

Right before Jesus ascended, He said, “You will be My witnesses to the ends of the earth.” With the help of our beloved priests, our mission is ever the same: proclaim the Gospel, bear witness to Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, even to the end of time, bear witness to the promise of eternal life, the grace and power of the Holy Spirit who still lives in and sustains the Church. We must watch and wait in prayer, being faithful to the end, remembering that eternity is stronger than time.

“Behold, I am with you always, until to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).



“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*

June 2022

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

June	5, 2022	Sisters of the Living Word (SLW)
June	12, 2022	Society of Mary (Marianists) (SM)
June	19, 2022	Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers (MM)
June	26, 2022	Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (HMSS)
July	3, 2022	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas (North Carolina) (RSM)

COME HOLY SPIRIT

We are called to reflect on the gifts the Holy Spirit gave to the Apostles on Pentecost. They had returned to Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension and gathered in the Upper Room of the Last Supper. He asked them to stay there in prayer until the coming of the Spirit (the first novena!) – Acts 1:4. The Apostles were there with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, who was filled with the Holy Spirit from her Immaculate Conception.

Then what happened? Something miraculous! The Spirit came upon them like a rush of wind and tongues of fire. When they received the Holy Spirit, they went into the streets of Jerusalem proclaiming the mighty works of God. They spoke in different languages, and though the crowds in the street came from many different countries and spoke different languages, they all understood what was being preached. The Apostles went forth preaching and teaching about Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected – how he died on the cross to save us from sin and how he rose from the dead to bring us to new and eternal life. In Acts 2:42, we learn that, as a result of Peter's preaching, 3000 people asked to be baptized! What a transformation he had! He was fearless! He denied Jesus not once but three times and did not even accompany Him to the cross, but now he was no longer afraid. He was brought before the Sanhedrin and warned not to preach any more, but, when he was released, he went right back to preaching! Later we read that the Apostles worked many miracles in Jesus' name. People brought their sick out into the streets in the hopes that Peter's shadow would fall on them (Acts 5:14-15). Peter grew in strength and spirit. He was not afraid of persecution for the sake of Jesus any longer, and, as a result, the Church grew in strength.

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church because those who accepted the testimony of the Apostles formed the new community of believers, the Church, the Body of Christ. Pentecost is the solution to a problem that has plagued humanity since Adam disobeyed God: people do not like being told what to do, not even by God. The gifts of the Holy Spirit render us all docile to His Law. Are we afraid to be seen as someone associated with Jesus? Are we afraid of persecution because we are a follower of Jesus? Are we truly proud to be Catholic? Which Peter are we like: the one who was afraid and denied Jesus or the transformed fearless Peter? Which do you want: life according to the flesh, or life in the Holy Spirit?

We need to pray for more of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to receive what Peter received at Pentecost. Pray daily to be open to the Holy Spirit who is always guiding us, helping us, inspiring us, leading us closer and closer to where God wants us to be. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Every day we can work with Him or work against Him. The choice is ours. We know that God will win out in the end. The Holy Spirit keeps us together as a team. The **ONLY** way that our Church has survived for two-thousand years now **IS** the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings us together and keeps us together. And the Holy Spirit makes sure that we are never alone or in danger. The Holy Spirit is the best protector that we will ever have! The Holy Spirit is essential to each one of us as individuals and to all of us collectively as the whole Church! The Holy Spirit is always at work in our lives. God's Spirit heals us of our inner wounds, our false pride and our exaggerated sense of self-reliance and moves us to surrender to God's saving power, in other words, moves us to faith, giving us a spirit of humility and peace. This same Spirit inspires us to go forth proclaiming the Good News of the resurrected Lord, not simply by our words, but by our actions of compassion, charity, mercy, and justice toward those most in need in this world.

Together with the whole Church we pray, “Come Holy Spirit, come by means of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Your well beloved spouse.”