

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR VOLUME V

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MAY, JUNE 2023



REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,
May 17, 2023

PLEASE GATHER IN
THE AULA ROOM
AT 10:00AM

HOLY HOUR WILL BEGIN
AT 10:30AM

Followed by Mass,
Luncheon, and Speaker.

SPEAKER:

Rev. Timothy Plavac
Pastor
St. Bede the Venerable,
Mentor

As always, friends/guests are most welcome! Please contact Chris Ryan at 440-983-0805 or chrisryan78@myyahoo.com, no later than noon on Monday, May 15, if you cannot attend or to make additional reservations. Guest donation is \$13.00. Please remember to bring your Holy Hour Prayer Book. **Members:** Please leave your full name and phone number when calling to cancel reservation. Also, please note that **ALL Avila Members** have a standing reservation and need to call in cancellations when necessary. **Members who are unable to regularly attend meetings and cannot call to cancel luncheon reservations might consider becoming a sustaining member.** Thank you.

President's Corner

Devotion to Mary is an important part of our Catholic identity. As our Mother, Mary is an example of a committed "Yes" to the will of God. In the Catholic Church, the month of May is traditionally Mary's month, when we honor Our Blessed Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Heavenly Mother. Holy Mother Church dedicates the month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in veneration and in gratitude for His merciful Heart and for His redeeming love for mankind.

Holy Masses, novenas, and the recitation of devotional prayers in honor of the Sacred Heart are traditionally observed by the faithful devotees. Devotion to the Sacred Heart "is an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ's mercy and our way to express our gratitude for His mercy and love."

As Avilas, we pray for this "yes" to be spoken in the heart of those God calls to a vocation to the priestly or religious life. During our prayers to Jesus and Mary in the months of May and June, let us pray and ask Jesus and Mary to encourage, comfort, and strengthen His priests with the Holy Spirit.

*Many Blessings,
Marianne Repinski*



March Speaker — Fr. Michael Denk

Father Denk came from a family of six kids, three boys and three girls. The family was raised in Parma. After he made his First Communion, a good friend of his parents came up to him, bent down on her knee, looked him in the eye and said, "Michael, you look like you would be a great priest one day." He looked down, rather embarrassed, and thought, "I do not want to be a priest. I want to have fun in life and have a family and be married. I do not want to be a priest. It sounds boring."

For this little boy, the priesthood seemed boring, prayer seemed boring and even Mass seemed boring to him. He used to pray to God and ask, "Lord, please do not make me be a priest." He started making deals with God. One was, "If you let me be married, I will say the Rosary every day with my family." The interesting thing was, though, the call never left. So anytime he would be at Mass and would hear a petition to pray for more priests and vocations, he would put his head down and blush.

Then came high school and college. When it is said that priests are taken from among men, Father assured us that he probably did a lot of the same things that we are struggling with. He was taken from among that life. After some time, he found himself thinking of the priesthood, but kept it to himself.

Father's older brother, Bobby, told his parents that he was thinking about the priesthood and that he was going to go make this retreat at the seminary. His parents asked each of their kids, "Bob is thinking about priesthood. What do you think about that?" When they asked Father, he said, "Actually, I've thought it, too, my whole life, and maybe I should make this retreat with him."

Father and Bobby both made the retreat. By the end of the retreat, Bobby knew the priesthood was not for him, and Father knew he was supposed to be there. He really credits his older brother, Bobby, with the courage to bringing him to the seminary.

Father honestly entered the seminary thinking, "Alright, Lord, my life is going to be miserable. It is going to be horrible, but maybe if I become a priest and do what you want, at the end of my life maybe I will get to go to heaven." But then he discovered two things: priesthood, at least HIS priesthood, is not boring. Rather, it is far from boring, and prayer is not boring. Prayer is the greatest adventure we could ever go on, the most intimate experience, the most amazing experience of God that we could ever have.

It was actually the opposite of what Father thought it was going to be!

Please update the following email address for
Chris Ryan on your Avila Membership Roster:

chrisryan78@myyahoo.com

Thank you!



**Rosemary Cochran
Arch Tunnell**



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



**The Family and Friends of
Avila Member
Pattie Collett,
and
to the Family of
Dr. Edward Kaczuk.**

Happy Mother's Day
and
Father's Day!



**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 2023

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

May	7, 2023	Franciscans (Pulaski, Wisconsin) (OFM)
May	14, 2023	Conventual Franciscans (OFM Conv.)
May	21, 2023	Capuchin Franciscan Friars (OFM Cap.)
May	28, 2023	Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS)
June	4, 2023	Sisters of St. Francis (Chicago) (OSF)

HOPE

In today's world, everyone can use hope. This powerful feeling says that good things are coming. It's the feeling that life will work out even though present circumstances may say otherwise. When the world feels like it's only going in a negative direction, we must cling to hope. When the world says all hope is lost, we have something to hope for — eternal life with God and the knowledge that good will win in the end. St. John Paul II said, *“I plead with you — never, ever give up on hope; never doubt, never tire and never become discouraged ...”*

We all face difficult moments of darkness and anxiety when things can become difficult. During these challenging times, hope can be misunderstood. We may think that it is having a positive attitude or being optimistic. We may place our hope in things of this world thinking they will bring us happiness. Pope Francis reminds us that true hope is not built on human words or assurances, but on God's Word and His promise of salvation and eternal life. God has placed in each of our hearts the desire and longing for true happiness. The virtue of hope responds to this innermost desire and helps us to place our trust in God.

Hope can be described as an unshakable trust and assurance that the promises of God will be fulfilled. This trust is based on what He has done for us in His Son Jesus, through His Death and Resurrection. Like faith, it is not a human attitude or opinion, but it is a gift of the Holy Spirit. *“Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.”* (CCC 1817).

Hope keeps man from discouragement; *“it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity”* (CCC 1818).

St. Paul declares, *“Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?”* (*Romans 8:24*). This gift of the Holy Spirit helps us envision what still cannot be seen and which would otherwise be impossible to expect. For St. Paul, hope is a person, it is Christ Himself. It is more than simply a desire for the joys of eternal life. It is a desire to be with Jesus. It is this assurance of the love and presence of Jesus and His Father that allows anyone who is suffering to find encouragement and comfort. Jesus Himself and His love for each of us is the reason for our hope.

Pope St. John Paul II said the Blessed Virgin Mary models the virtue of hope for the Church. *In Mary: Model of Faith, Hope, and Charity, he said, “[Mary] is thus the Mother of hope for the community of believers and for individual Christians, and she encourages and guides Her children as they await the kingdom, supporting them in their daily trials and throughout the events of history, however tragic.”*

“They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31).



“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 2023

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

June	4, 2023	Sisters of St. Francis (Chicago) (OSF)
June	11, 2023	Sisters of St. Francis (Millvale) (OSF)
June	18, 2023	Sisters of St. Francis (Sylvania) (OSF)
June	25, 2023	Sisters of St. Francis (Tiffin) (OSF)
July	2, 2023	Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate (Joliet) (OSF)

GLORIFY GOD BY OUR LIVES

(Part II of Father Eric Garris' talk at the Avila Day of Prayer—October 2022)

The new parish priest picked Father Garris up and took him to a weekend retreat. He was struck by the joy that people had in their hearts; they were glorifying God by their presence and in the way they related to one another. The life of a Christian is joyful and full of glory and has an attractiveness that brings other people in. During the retreat, Father encountered Jesus as being a real person other than just an idea; it was a moment in which he realized that God was real. He asked himself, if God is real, what does it mean about the way he was living his life? He wanted to know more, and he allowed himself to be pulled and drawn by God, which meant Adoration Chapel, prayer, and Mass. He began to wrestle with the possibility of the priesthood. When he entered the seminary, he was hoping he would hate it because, if he wasn't happy, then he wasn't in the place that God was calling him to be. But he found he loved it because of the joyful community – brother seminarians - he was surrounded by. Our lives as Christians should embody the glory of the Resurrection. Pope Francis says, *“We are Easter people and Hallelujah is our song.”*

When we glorify God by our lives, it matters because we are witnessing to the God who has entered in and taken claim of our lives. In Mass, when we receive the Body of Christ and our Amen says we believe that this is the Body of Christ and we are more fully becoming Christ. When Jesus enters in, the question becomes, how is God calling us to live with Him? Our duty as Christians is through our very being to be Christ within the world. Mass ends with the invitation to glorify the Lord by our lives, and not by “stay here.”

Remember that the glory of God needs to be encountered. He is calling us to encounter Him in prayer and at Mass, and to stand before Him with a sense of longing. He knows us, loves us and calls us into relationship with Him. How can we bring the glory of God into the relationships that we have with others? If God is glorified in us, others see that. We must become icons of Christ. Are we living the full lives that Jesus wants us to live?