

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR VOLUME VI

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JULY, AUGUST 2023

SUMMER

God wrapped the Summer
in sunshine,
Then painted the skies
brightest blue,
He added the cloudscape
so high up above
And sprinkled the green
grass with dew.
The green leaves sparkled
so softly,
Kissed by the raindrops
of June,
While birds in the treetops
delighted as they sang
every magical tune.
Summer-the season
of wonder,
Of butterflies, roses
and bees,
Of hilltops that reach
to the heavens
And every soft
whispering breeze;
It's baseball, vacations,
and children
Happy for freedom
from school,
Beautiful hours of daylight
And fun in the old
swimming pool....
Days filled with peace
and contentment,
Rainbows of magical hue,
Gardens now kissed
by the sunbeams
And stars shine when day
hours are through;
God smiling down from
His Heaven,
Lending a beauty so dear,
Blessing His world with
the Summer-
Most wonderful time
of the year.

By Garnett Ann Schultz

President's Corner



As Avilas, our commitment to pray for priests is very important. Our patron, St. Teresa of Avila, described prayer as follows:

"Prayer is nothing more than spending a long time alone with the One I know loves me."

Please keep in your prayers our newly ordained priests:

**Reverend David Chojnacki
Reverend Dominic Gideon
Reverend Fabian Duckhyun Han
Reverend Ian Kelly
Reverend Jeffrey Liptak
Reverend Christopher Stein**

Praying for priests is a privilege and our duty.

Let us pray to Jesus:

Send us priests, send us many priests, send us Holy priests.

Have a blessed Summer!

See you in September.

Marianne Repinski



TALK BY FR. TIM J. PLAVAC AT MAY 17, 2023 AVILA GATHERING

We know that the name we are given, usually from the Bible, has meaning. It says who we are and what we are about. For example, Jesus means one who saves; Peter means Rock. Father is Croatian on both sides of his family. When he was born, his mother went to her father who asked what she was going to name him and she told him, "Tim." He said, "Timmy. That is an Irish name." He did not like the name; he wanted a good Croatian name like Nick, Frank, or John. But Timothy means "honoring God." A little foreshadowing of his life ...

When Father was four years old, this same grandfather died in December 1963; it was his first experience in a funeral home. He heard his mother say she didn't know what she was going to do with herself. His grandmother put her hand on her husband's cheek and said, "Poor Paw," which to him meant she still loved him. Then the priest came in and led the same prayer we have been saying for centuries: "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen." He thought about this prayer and thought eternal rest sounded good, and perpetual light reminded him of the aluminum Christmas tree in his grandparents' house with the four colored wheel shining on it. He pictured his grandfather sleeping on a cloud in Heaven.

Two years later when Father was six years old, the popular religious movie of the time was "King of Kings." During the part of the movie when Jesus was dying, was reluctant to cry in front of everyone so he went into the bathroom and cried. Another connection to Christ. T.S. Elliot wrote, "We had the experience, but we missed the meaning." Very true about a lot of things in life.

Father did not attend Catholic school because his mother did not want him to have the same experience she did with the nuns! He was a public school kid in Euclid, attended CCD and was taught by the nuns there about Confession. At his first Confession, he forgot to say the Sign of the Cross, the priest yelled and he thought, "I sinned at my first Confession!" He stayed away from Confession for seven months until one of the nuns found out.

If there was a first thought about the priesthood, he was perhaps ten years old, he realized what the priest says while washing his hands: Lord, wash away my iniquities and cleanse me of my sin. And he thought, "Priests don't have to go to Confession, they just have to wash their fingers at every Mass."

When he was about 12 years old, he felt sorry for the priest and thought, "I'm going to the Browns game today. What's he going to do?" He had visions of the priest being folded up with his vestments after Mass, being put in the closet until next Sunday, and that priests don't have a life. When Father was 14, it was the first day of Summer vacation and he was walking down the street and his friend, Bob, came out of his house with a grin on his face and said, "I haven't been to Mass in three weeks." It made Father realize that such a thought would never have occurred to him, that he and his family were part of the fabric of parish life like dinners, bazaars, bowling leagues.

He attended St. Joseph High School and started going to Mass every day during his Freshman or Sophomore years because his bus got to school early, and found himself comfortable there. Senior year, the question was raised, "Now you're graduating. What are you going to do with your life?" I thought about being a teacher, a translator for German, but in the Fall got the call to be a priest; I knew who was on the other end, I knew what He wanted and I didn't pick up. He thought if he became a priest he would never have fun again and he would be an angry young man by the time he was 35, and this was scary. So he procrastinated, and applied to a few colleges, but he knew deep down he had to give the seminary a chance. And the more he was there, the more he liked it.

The moment he realized he wanted to be a priest was when he was walking down the hall looking at some of the pictures and some of the priests there talked to him all the time and got to know him. His fears melted away. He came to admire many of the priests there. Father was ordained on June 2, 1986. He was able to say two first Masses, one at the Croatian Church in Cleveland and the other at St. Felicitas in Euclid. He served at St. Martin de Tours for five years (1986-1991), at St. Mary's in Painesville for two years, on the faculty at Borromeo for eight years teaching Latin and religion, then to St. Rita's in Solon for two years. He was assigned to St. Bede the Venerable Parish on February 23, 2004.

Be sure to pray for Father Plavac and all of the priests over the years who have given their time to speak to us!



Arch Tunnell

Kathy Woodworth



**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
longtime Avila members:**

Carolyn Baird

Rosemary Cochran

Mary Alice Schaefer

**May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, 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.**



**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 2023

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

July	2, 2023	Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate (Joliet) (OSF)
July	9, 2023	Congregation of Holy Cross (CSC)
July	16, 2023	Priests of Holy Cross (Indiana Province) (CSC)
July	23, 2023	Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN)
July	30, 2023	Holy Father Pope Francis
August	6, 2023	Holy Ghost Fathers (CSSP)

AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

The third and greatest of the divine virtues is love. This is spoken of by St. Paul in I Corinthians 13. The two terms "love" and "charity" are frequently used interchangeably since the virtue of charity is a kind of love. But the two are not identical; not all forms of love are also charity. We often hear expressions like, "I love hot chocolate," or "I love basketball," or even "I love America." These kinds of love, while all good in themselves, still fall short of the love that is charity.

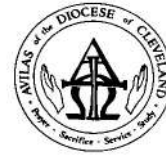
Charity is the Love of God in which we are able to participate. Charity is the highest way of participating in God's action, for with charity we share in God's act of love; we are able to love the way God loves. We must do our best to practice a selfless and sacrificial love. We have to try and stop thinking about our faith, our religion and our lives as Catholics as if it was just about us. Remember that our number-one purpose in life is to serve God, to please Him. We can't evaluate our spiritual life based on whether we get anything out of it. Many people do this; they quit praying or going to confession or going to mass because they "don't get anything out of it." That's an indication that they are lacking the virtue of charity, that their relationship with God is fundamentally selfish.

We are supposed to have frequent prayer and frequent reception of the sacraments not based primarily on what we personally get out of it, but because it pleases God, because it makes Him happy. Charity means a willingness to sacrifice our time and energy and preferences in order to go to God in prayer and in the sacramental life of Mass and Confession to show our love for Him. We're not just doing this for ourselves, but for our Creator, Our Loving Father.

This also means that our prayers should also avoid the tendency to always be exclusively self-focused. Often times our prayers include: "Give me this," "Help me with this," "Here's what's happening in my life," "What should I do?" etc. These sorts of prayers are good, necessary and not to be criticized. God wants us to tell Him what we need and what's going on with us, but there should also be prayers focused on God, like: "Thank You," "You are so good," "You have done so much for me," etc. To keep charity alive, we must remember that prayer is not just petition; it's also praise and thanksgiving.

What about those around us? Christ told us "A new commandment I give you: love one another as I have loved you." Whether we have genuine charity for our neighbors depends on whether we are willing to give selflessly and sacrificially for their sakes. Notice that Our Lord does not offer this as advice, but as a commandment. As Christians, we are obliged to spend time with people we don't enjoy, to be kind to our enemies, to strive for reconciliation with estranged family members and to show our affection for people we don't get along with. It also means that we must practice the Corporeal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The seven corporeal works of mercy are those which care for the bodily wants of our brothers and sisters. The seven spiritual works of mercy promote their spiritual welfare. Unfortunately there is not enough room to list them here.

The virtue of Charity is the summit of the Christian life and the beginning of everlasting happiness. Seeking personal fulfillment is not enough; we must have an eye to serving God and neighbor.



“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 2023

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

August	6, 2023	Holy Ghost Fathers (CSSP)
August	13, 2023	Sisters of the Humility of Mary (HM)
August	20, 2023	Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe) (IHM)
August	27, 2023	Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton) (IHM)
September	3, 2023	Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI)

BEAUTIFUL HANDS OF A PRIEST

*We need them in life's early morning, we need them again at its close.
We need their warm clasp of friendship; we seek it while tasting life's woes.*

*When we come to this world, we are sinful, the greatest as well as the least,
And the hands that make us pure as angels are the beautiful hands of a priest.*

*At the altar each day we behold them, and the hands of a king on his throne
Are not equal to them in their gestures; their dignity stands alone.*

*For there in the stillness of morning ere the sun has emerged from the east,
There God rests between the pure fingers of the beautiful hands of a priest.*

*When we are tempted to wander to pathways of shame and sin,
'Tis the hand of a priest that absolves us, not once, but again and again.*

*And when we are taking life's partner, other hands may prepare us a feast,
But the hands that will bless and unite us are the beautiful hands of a priest.*

*God bless them and keep them all holy, for the Host which their fingers caress,
What can a poor sinner do better than to ask Him who chose them to bless.*

*When the death dews on our list as falling, may our courage and strength be increased
By seeing raise o'er us in blessing the beautiful hands of a priest.*

—Author Unknown

