

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR VOLUME VI

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JULY, AUGUST 2024



A Summer Blessing

**May you walk with God
This summer
In whatever you do
Wherever you go.**

**Walking with God means...
Walking with honesty
And with courage,
Walking with love
And respect
And concern for the
feelings of others.**

**May you talk to God
This summer
And every day and
In every situation.**

**Talking with God means...
Praying words of praise
For the beauty of creation
Saying prayers of thanks
For friends and good
times,
Asking God's help
In all your decisions
Expressing sorrow
When you have failed.**

**May you talk with God
Every day. Amen.**

- Author unknown

President's Corner

Dear Fellow Avila Members,

July 16 is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Feast of the Transfiguration is on August 6th and the Feast of the Assumption is August 15th.

As Avilas, praying for priestly vocations is a privilege and our duty. Our patron, St. Teresa of Avila says "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 priest, *Reverend Michael Garvin*. He is beginning his ministry with the people of St. Charles Borromeo in Parma.

Let us pray to Jesus and Mary united with St Teresa of Avila, for an increase in vocations.

Have a blessed Summer and I look forward to seeing you all at our next Avila meeting which will be on September 18th when our speaker will be Sister Mary Knuckles, OSST.



Have a safe and holy Summer!

*Blessings to All,
Marianne*

MAY SPEAKER

FATHER MAX COLE, PASTOR, HOLY ANGELS CHURCH

Father told us that relationships are important and that we were present there because of them. Our relationship with God our Father is important in knowing what love is, and we must learn how the saints loved. We need to be who God created us to be. Father said he ran from God and would not have been a good priest if he had entered the seminary right out of high school. Instead, he worked many jobs until he listened to all those who told him they were praying for him and that he would make a good priest.

Prayers are everything! We should never stop praying for priests. It is because of our prayers that he is a priest today. At St. Helen's parish, he learned from them because they kept inviting him. Now he jumps out of bed each morning to see where God is going to lead him next.

Let's not lose our joy!

TEN PIECES OF WISDOM FROM SAINT TERESA OF AVILA

"Accustom yourself continually to make many acts of love, for they enkindle and melt the soul."

"You pay God a compliment by asking great things of Him."

"There are more tears shed over answered prayers than over unanswered prayers."

"Christ has no body now but mine. He prays in me, works in me, looks through my eyes, speaks through my words, works through my hands, walks with my feet and loves with me here."

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!"

The surest way to determine whether one possesses the love of God is to see whether he or she loves his or her neighbor. These two loves are never separated. Rest assured, the more you progress in love of neighbor, the more your love of God will increase."

"Trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be."

"God walks among the pots and the pans."

"We always find that those who walked closest to Christ were those who had to bear the greatest trials."

"We shall never learn to know ourselves except by endeavoring to know God; for, beholding his greatness, we realize our own littleness; his purity shows us our foulness; and by meditating upon his humility we find how very far we are from being humble."



Greg and Joan Evans

Susan Federico

Renee Kirvelaitis

Patti Rollins

(great-granddaughter of Ellen Newcomb)

Pat Rybka

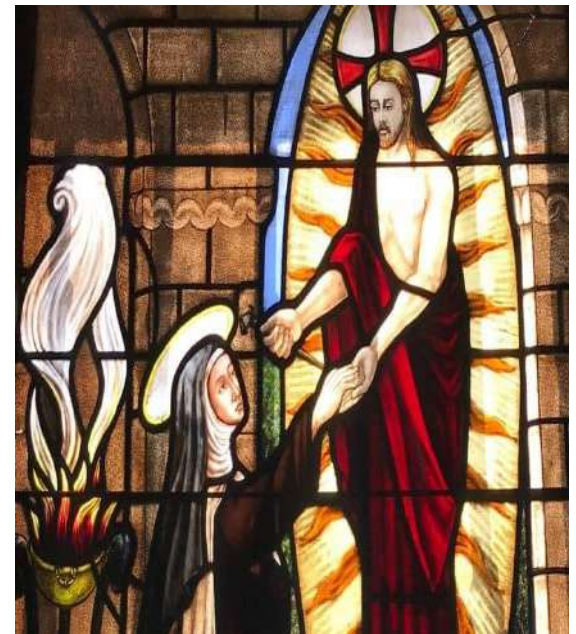
Barbara Stein

Mary Ann Trask

Arch Tunnell



**For prayer requests contact Joan Evans at
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440-331-2383.**



**God Bless,
Susan Federico
Newsletter and Meditations**



“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 2024

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

July	7, 2024	Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA)
July	14, 2024	Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati (SC)
July	21, 2024	Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill (SC)
July	28, 2024	Daughters of Divine Charity (FDC)
August	4, 2024	Sisters of Divine Providence (CDP)

SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE

By tradition St. Joachim and St. Anne are considered to be the parents of Mary, the Mother of God. There is no Biblical evidence or mention of them, so any stories about them have been passed on to us through legend and tradition. The oldest story comes from a document called the Gospel of James, though this document is not considered as factual, historical or the Word of God. We should focus instead on why they are honored by the Church.

Legend and tradition depicted Joachim and Anne as an esteemed, wealthy and righteous Jewish couple who prayed fervently for a child in their old age. They were holy members of the temple doing charitable works in the community. They lived in Nazareth and were deeply devout spouses who modeled virtue, charity, and love of God in their daily lives. Joachim was a shepherd and charitable donor to the temple. Anne was diligent in her domestic duties and service to the poor.

An ancient story dating to the first centuries of the Church's life recalls how they, like Abraham and Sarah, were scorned by their neighbors because they had no children, but years of longing did not weaken their trust in God. Grief eventually drove Saint Joachim into the wilderness to fast and pray. Saint Anne remained at home, dressed in mourning clothes and weeping. Seeing her mistress distressed, a servant girl reminded Anne to put her trust in God. Saint Anne washed her face, put on her bridal clothes and went to the garden to plead with God for a child.

Angels appeared to Saint Anne in her garden and to Saint Joachim in the desert, promising that, despite their old age, they would give birth to a child who would be known throughout the world. They ran to meet one another at Jerusalem's Golden Gate, and with a kiss rejoiced in the new life which God had promised to them.

By God's grace, their prayers were answered with the miraculous birth of Mary. When Mary was three years old, her parents gratefully and lovingly presented her in dedication to the Lord in the temple, where she was consecrated to God to remain a virgin all of her life and where she was blessed to receive her education.

Mary had good faithful parents who raised her with love and devotion to God. Joachim and Anne serve as role models for parents and grandparents, and they deserve to be honored and copied for their devotion to God and Our Lady. They stand as models of faithfulness, piety, generosity and perseverance. As grandparents of Jesus, their sacrificial lives most probably nurtured her, shaped her and brought her up to be the worthy Mother of God, thereby fostering Mary's own immaculate holiness and openness to God's plan. They offer an inspiring model of faith and devotion for all parents seeking to foster virtue in their children. Such a couple can be examples and models for all parents and grandparents. They are powerful intercessors for all married couples, expectant mothers and married couples who are having difficulty conceiving, as well as all who have grown old. They are honored on their feast day, July 26. Many churches and shrines bear their names.

Prayer to Saints Joachim and Anne, the Parents of Mary

O God, who bestowed on Saints Joachim and Anne the grace that of them should be born the Mother of your incarnate Son, grant, through the prayers of both, that we may attain the salvation you have promised to your people. Most Holy Saints Anne and Joachim, please guide us in the way of virtue. Help us to parent our children and grandchildren with a gentle heart as you did. Show us how to raise our children in faith and bring our families into the light of Christ. Remain close to us and help us on our journey to salvation. Dear St. Joachim and St. Anne, patron saint of grandparents, I present to you all my grandchildren and ask your intercession on their behalf. Watch over them in need and plead their case before your grandson, Jesus, asking that He bless them and keep them in His tender care. Amen.



"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 2024

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

August	4, 2024	Sisters of Divine Providence (CDP)
August	11, 2024	Sisters of the Divine Redeemer (SDR)
August	18, 2024	Sisters of St. Dominic (Adrian) (OP)
August	25, 2024	Dominican Sisters of Peace (Akron) (OP)
September	1, 2024	Religious of the Eucharist (RE)

ST. MAXIMILIAN MARY KOLBE: MARTYR OF SUPREME SACRIFICE OF LIFE

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe was born on January 8, 1894. His life was strongly influenced in 1906 at age 12 by a vision of the Virgin Mary: "That night I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both." Kolbe later joined the Conventual Franciscans, professing his final vows in 1914. Soon after, on October 16, 1917, he organized the Army of the Immaculate One, to work for conversion of sinners and enemies of the Catholic Church through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. He was ordained in 1918, and was active in promoting veneration of the Immaculate in Mary. From 1919 to 1922, he taught at the Krakow Seminary. In January 1922, Maximilian founded the monthly periodical, *Knight of the Immaculata*, and operated a religious printing press until 1926. He founded a new Conventual Franciscan monastery near Warsaw in 1927, which became a major religious publishing center. A junior seminary was opened there two years later. Kolbe went on missions to East Asia from 1930 to 1936, first to China, and then to Japan where he founded a Franciscan monastery on the outskirts of Nagasaki on a mountainside in 1931 and started publishing a Japanese edition of the *Knight of the Immaculata*. The monastery miraculously survived when the atomic bomb was dropped there. Meanwhile, the monastery in Poland began to publish a daily newspaper, the *Small Diary*, in alliance with a political group, which reached a large circulation. He remained in Japan until 1936, and two years later started a radio station.

After the outbreak of World War II, Maximilian was one of the few friars who remained in the monastery, and he organized a temporary hospital. After the town was captured by the Germans, he was first arrested in September 1939, and was released about three months later. After his release, he and the other friars provided shelter to refugees from Greater Poland, including 2000 Jews whom he hid from German persecution. He continued publishing religious works, though significantly reduced, and the monastery continued to act as a publishing house, but issued a number of publications considered anti-Nazi. The monastery was shut down by the German authorities in February 1941, and Kolbe and four others were arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned. Before his arrest he wrote, "No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is seek truth and to serve it when we have found it. The real conflict is an inner conflict. Beyond armies and occupation and the hetacombs of extermination camps, there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we ourselves are defeated in our innermost personal selves?" He was transferred to Auschwitz on May 28, as Prisoner 16670, where he often managed to hear Confessions, and speak of God's infinite love. A prisoner escaped from the camp in July, and as a punishment, the camp commander picked ten men to starve to death in an underground bunker. When one man cried out, "Oh, my poor wife! Oh, my poor children! I shall never see them again." Kolbe volunteered to take his place. According to an eyewitness, an assistant janitor, Kolbe led the prisoners in loud prayers, the Rosary and singing in the prison cell. He never complained, but raised the spirits of the others. After they had been starved and deprived of water for two weeks, only Kolbe and three others were alive. The guards wanted the bunker emptied, so they gave the four remaining prisoners lethal injections of carbolic acid. Maximilian is said to have raised his left arm and calmly waited for the deadly injection. He died on August 14, 1941. His remains were cremated the next day, the feast of the Assumption of Mary. The Polish bishops wrote, "The life and death of this one man alone can be proof and witness of the fact that the love of God can overcome the greatest hatred, the greatest injustice, even death itself."

St. Kolbe was declared a martyr of charity and "the patron of our difficult century," and was canonized on October 10, 1982, by St. Pope John Paul II. The man Kolbe saved at Auschwitz, survived the Holocaust and was present. His feast day is August 14, the day of his martyrdom. Due to his efforts to promote Consecration and entrustment to Mary, he is known as the "apostle of consecration to Mary." According to the friars, "Our patron, St. Maximilian Kolbe, inspires us with his unique Mariology and apostolic mission, which is to bring all souls to the Sacred Heart of Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Christ's most pure, efficient, and holy instrument of evangelization – especially those most estranged from the Church."

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Note: You can access his simple yet profound 33 Day Consecration to the Immaculata by going to the Facebook page, "Gabi's 2nd Channel."