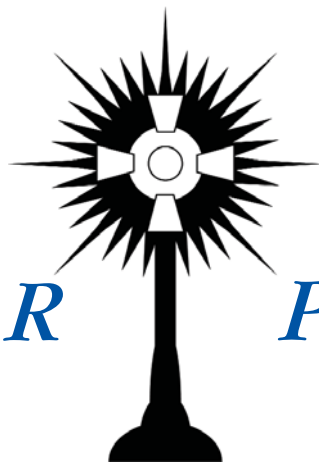


PRAYER POWER



Spring 2005

Eucharistic Vocation Vigil

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of
Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow
love.
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled
as to be console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we
receive,
It is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life.

Inside this issue:

Peg's Desk Pilgrimage	2
Joy, Peace and Contentment in the Priesthood Father Joseph Prior	3
Invite The Blessed Mother Into Your Day Martie Gillin	4
Change Compassion and Courage	5
What's New at Prayer Power	6

How do you Approach Change?

Change is a reality of life. Most of us have
one of **three approaches to change**.
Imagine yourself stranded in the ocean
in a sinking row boat a mile from shore. You
have a bucket but nothing else in the boat.
You say to yourself, "the water is cold, there
are sharks and the shore is too far for me to
swim."

The **first person** starts bailing out the water
hoping against hope that he will drift to shore
before he sinks or dies from exhaustion. This
person **clings to what they have**.

When the **second person** feels enough pain
and sense of urgency he jumps into the water
and begins swimming to shore dragging the
sinking boat with him. This person **wants to
move on and hold on at the same time**.

When the **third person** feels the pain and a
sense of urgency he jumps in the water and
swims to shore. This person **recognizes the
reality of change and has the courage to
let go and move on**.

How do you approach change? Let God be
your compass. Go into the stillness of your
heart where God will give you the strength to
make positive changes, the wisdom to endure
painful transitions and the capacity to become
a person in whose presence the world moves
towards healing.

"To Live Is To Change"

Psalm 62: 1-2; 5-8

For God alone my soul waits
in silence;
from Him comes my salvation.
He alone is my rock and my
salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

For God alone my soul waits in
silence,
for my hope is from Him.
He alone is my rock and my
salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my deliverance and my
honour;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in
God.

**Trust in Him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before Him;
God is a refuge for us.**



© Prayer Power



From the Desk of Peggie O'Neill

Dear Prayer Power Family;

During Lent we reflected on the big changes in Jesus' life. On Palm Sunday we see the people bowing down before Our Lord. They want to make Him their king. Suddenly, these same people turn on Him. The very people Jesus healed and fed are yelling "crucify him, crucify him."

The apostles believed that Jesus would take care of them. He was the Messiah. Their beliefs were shattered because Jesus let His enemies crucify Him like a criminal. The apostles ran and hid. No wonder Our Lord often said to them, **"Oh you of little faith."** Yet, it was through His passion and death that Jesus taught us about love and suffering. He taught us to pray and forgive those who hurt us. **"Father forgive them for they know not what they do."**

Like the apostles, the actions of a few priests have shattered some of our sacred beliefs. We are at the crossroads of our faith. We can be angry and hide or we can "have faith the size of a mustard seed" and do something to show our love and support for the priesthood. We invite you in this year of the Eucharist to promote the **Eucharistic Vocation Pilgrimage to St. Charles Seminary.**

We are making this pilgrimage as an outward sign of our love and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the center of our church and we can't have the Eucharist without the priests. We need priests. We need holy priests. This is the Prayer Power mission, praying for vocations and praying for holy priests. We need your help. Please encourage your parish to take part in this pilgrimage.

Our Prayer Power mission is more important than ever. Our priests need our prayers and our love. We need our priests and we need to be fed by Our Lord in the Eucharist. Prayer Power needs you to help us grow and spread our mission. You are truly the heart of our church and our Prayer Power mission.

I pray that you and your family have a happy and holy Easter. I'm looking forward to seeing you on the Pilgrimage.

Love

Peggie O'Neill

P.S. Remember Mother Teresa's words "No where on earth are you more welcomed or more loved, than by Jesus, living and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament." Invite your friends and family to make a holy hour with you. Invite them to make this special Eucharistic Pilgrimage to St. Charles for vocations.

Joy, Peace and Contentment in the Priesthood.



Father Joseph G. Prior

“**P**resence and prayer” are the words Marc Cappizzi, a seminarian, uses to describe Father Joseph Prior the new Rector at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. “As priests we are called to preach,” said Marc. “However,

what we do and how we behave is more profound than our words. Father Prior is a great witness for us. He is always at Mass with the seminarians and he is first in chapel for Morning Prayer.”

Father came to St. Charles in 1999 as a faculty member. He held several administrative positions and was Vice Rector, before becoming the Rector. As one of Saint Charles' youngest Rectors, Father is part of the seminarian's generation. He has a familiarity with their culture, background and understands their point of view. They feel he is both an inspiration and a mentor.

Like many priests, Father Prior tributes his parents and parish priests for their faith filled influences in planting the seed for his vocation. He was raised in a family who had the courage to live their faith and compassion for their fellow man. “My parents were service oriented particularly through the parish. Because of their example, I developed a natural inclination to do that work. I was attracted to the life of a priest and how they serve others.”

As a young boy, Father recalls something in his prayer life was drawing him toward a vocation, but he was too young to seriously follow this calling. When it came time for him to pursue his higher education he

mustered up the courage to give the seminary a try. Father believes that there is a thinking process one should go through when pondering a priestly vocation. “We must be willing to address the question; Is God calling me to be a priest?” Then Father added, “For all of us, the Lord's will is central to finding joy, peace and contentment in our own lives on earth as we prepare for our heavenly journey.”

Father believes the number one influence in fostering a vocation is the invitation by a priest. After much prayer and discussion about your vocation, if a man still believes he has a calling, he should enter the seminary and try it. That's what Father Prior did. He knew he could leave if he didn't think the priestly life was for him. “I never looked back. I love being a priest,” Father explained with a big smile.

A Prayer For Priests

“Jesus, Mary, I love You, Save Souls.”

Send us men to be Thy priests.
Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord,
Keep them, for they are Thine -
Thy priests whose lives burn out before
Thy consecrated shrine.
Keep them, for they are in the world,
Though from the world apart;
When earthly pleasures tempt, allure, -
Shelter them in Thy heart.
Keep them, and comfort them in hours
Of loneliness and pain,
When all their life of sacrifice
For souls seems but in vain
Keep them, and O remember, Lord,
They have no one but Thee
Yet they have only human hearts,
With human frailty.
Keep them as spotless as the Host,
That daily they caress;
Their every thought and word and deed,
Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.

Invite The Blessed Mother Into Your Day

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration and devotion to the Blessed Mother are the sources of Martie Gillin's energy and dedication to her family, friends and teenagers. She and her husband, Bob, are married forty-seven years, have ten children, two deceased, and twenty-three grandchildren. Martie is the founder of AIDS Alive, SpeakUp! and Hoops for Hope.

It is hard to imagine how Martie finds time and energy to handle all these different facets in her life. But to Martie the answer is simple. She invites the Blessed Mother into each and every day. For as long as Martie can remember she has always relied on the Blessed Mother for grace and guidance. Weekly Eucharistic Adoration was a natural extension of her faith.

Martie equates the holy hour with making savings deposits in a bank. "You need that cushion just in case there is an emergency. Adoration sustains us through the sadness and the joys of life. Adoration connects us with our God-given inner strength and helps us accept life's endless barrage of changes-good and bad."

Martie first experienced change and courage as a teenager when she lost her father to cancer. The next big test of courage and change came when she lost her second child when he was an infant. As if this was not enough, her husband, Bob, underwent major heart surgery and Martie was diagnosed with breast cancer. However, the pinnacle of courage came when their son, Bob Jr., passed away from AIDS.



2005 Hoops for hope Basketball Clinic participants. Proceeds benefit children infected & affected with the HIV/AIDS virus



Gillin Family gather for 2004 Philadelphia AIDS walk

As you can see, Martie is no stranger to change. Martie views life as a boat. "The tide takes you here and there. Sometimes the tide is peaceful and the waves come in gently and other times the tide is rough and the waves come in ferociously. This is how life goes."

Never had the tides been more turbulent than when Martie's son, Bobby, Jr., was diagnosed HIV positive. "When something this devastating strikes your family you cannot navigate the waters on your own. You have to reach out for help. To receive help is to be humble and it is very hard to be humble."

Her son Bob was only 30 years old when he passed away twelve years ago. To continue his legacy, Martie put her compassion into action by founding AIDS Alive in 1997 and SpeakUp! in 2000. She travels to schools empowering students to make wise choices by teaching them the four A's: Acceptance, Accountability, Appreciation and Abstinence.

Martie credits the Blessed Mother and her weekly Holy Hour as the source of her courage and success. She believes that life and grieving is a process. "You can't rush this process, you must consciously move with it. Our faith is a gift especially in troubled times."

"Adoration connects us with our God-given inner strength and helps us accept life's endless barrage of changes-good and bad."

Martie Gillin

Change - Compassion - Courage

“E very change is a challenge to become who we really are.” Never underestimate the force of change. Some changes come into our life like a soft spring rain while others come into our life like a tornado turning everything upside down and sideways.

Many times we view change as a setback, events we didn't want to experience but we did. But this very same change, no matter how difficult or painful it might be, gives us the miraculous opportunity for personal transformation.

Every change creates varying degrees of loss, the deep loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, the loss of a job, the loss of a home or the deterioration of our bodies. There is even the loss we feel when our children start school, leave for college, get married, enter into the priesthood or religious life. How we deal with this loss and our willingness to accept change is important for us to come fully into the present.

God shows us through nature that change is good. The harshness of winter may appear ugly and dead but death is necessary to eradicate disease and weeds in order to give birth to a new and beautiful landscape. God wants us to see this in our life too, that a new spring is coming. Sometimes it's hard to see, sometimes it is impossible to imagine and sometimes we just don't want to see the light because we're caught up in our own darkness.

Grieving acknowledges our personal loss, not just in letting the old go, but also in letting it bless us. In the book "The Holy Longing" a passage states how important it is to grieve:



Refusing To Cling - [The Holy Longing](#)

I never suspected
Resurrection
and to be so painful
to leave me weeping
With joy
to have met you, alive and smiling,
outside an empty tomb
With regret
not because I've lost you
but because I've lost you in how I had you-
in understandable, touchable, kissable, clingable
flesh
not as fully Lord, but as graspably human.

I want to cling, despite your protest
cling to your body
cling to your, and my clingable humanity
cling to what we had, our past.

But I know that...if I cling
you cannot ascend and
I will be left clinging to your former self
...unable to receive your present spirit.

"Unless we grieve properly for our hurts, our losses, life's unfairness, our shattered dreams and all the life we once had, but has now passed us by, we will live either in an unhealthy fantasy or an ever-intensifying bitterness."

It is important to remember that grief is very personal. There is no easy cookie cutter formula for grieving. You must grieve your loss in your own personal way. What works for a friend may not work for you, especially in the case of a death of a loved one. You are the only one who can determine how you will grieve and for how long.

Taking time to honor your courage for being able to grow with your change will help you move from your old life to your new life. When you cultivate compassion for yourself it helps you be open to receiving new life and new spirit. If we are never challenged to change we will never know what great things we are capable of achieving.



**Prayer Power
Vocation Vigil
PO Box 541
Villanova, PA 19085-9998**

**Phone: 610-962-0951
Email: peg@prayerpower.tv**

Non Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit NO. 342
Wynnewood, PA



What's New at Prayer Power

- **Eucharistic Vocation Pilgrimages to St.Charles Borromeo Seminary**
Talk to your parish priests about dates
- **Mass with the Seminarians September 18, 2005. (Save the date - join us.)**
- **Internet Prayer Line-for information call 610-962-0951....or email peg@prayerpower.tv**