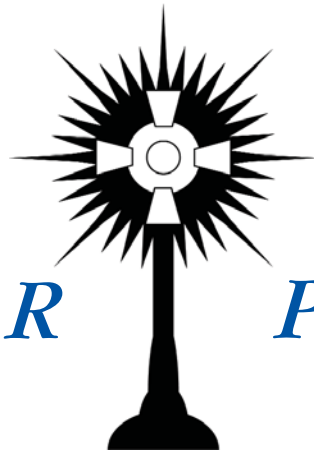


PRAYER POWER



Winter 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 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.

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Why do we need Purgatory?

It is a hot humid June day. You just completed a five mile run. You're hot and sweaty and you smell. Your hair is dirty and matted and you haven't brushed your teeth. You have coffee stains all over your tee shirt. The door bell rings. You open it. Standing before you impeccably dressed is the love of your life. The one person you love more than anyone else. Your heart skips beats when you see this person. Your beloved reaches out to give you a big hug. You're embarrassed. **What do you do? Do you run into their arms or do you first go and make yourself more presentable?**

This is probably the same type feeling we have when we come into the presence of God's radiant love and beauty. If there is any remnant of sin on our soul we are too ashamed to be in God's presence. **"Lord please let me go and get cleaned up so I may be worthy to be in your presence."**

The souls in Purgatory can pray for us. They can not pray for themselves. They need our prayers to help them get to heaven. We don't know if our loved ones are in Purgatory waiting for our prayers to release them. Do we dare take the chance of not praying for them? **Your prayers are never wasted.** If your loved one is in heaven your prayers will go to other souls in Purgatory.

To learn more about purgatory I strongly recommend, **"The Amazing Secret of the Souls in Purgatory."** Learn more about this book on our Prayer Power web site. www.prayerpowervigil.org

St. Gertrude the Great: Prayer for Souls and Sinners.

Our Lord told St. Gertrude that the following prayer will release a 1000 Souls from Purgatory each time it is said. The prayer also helps living sinner

"Eternal Father,
I offer Thee the most precious blood
of your Divine Son, Jesus,
in union with all the Masses
said throughout the world today,
for all the souls in purgatory,
for sinners everywhere,
for sinners in the universal church,
those in my own home and within my family.
Amen"





From the Desk of Peggie O'Neill

Dear Prayer Power Family

The season of Christmas is the perfect season to be Christ's Lamplighters and you are Christ's lamplighters. Like a bright lamp your love for the church and Our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist radiates to others. Christmas is a time of waiting, praying, and celebrating the birth of Christ. At Christmas we feel one with the entire human family both living and dead; therefore we suggest in this issue that we pray for the souls in Purgatory. What a wonderful Christmas gift we can give the souls in Purgatory, the gift of praying them into heaven for Christmas.

Also in this issue Father Kelly shares with us the power of a parish family working together to grow spiritually and socially. Drew Mason shares how Eucharistic prayer and the Rosary help us and our family. On our "How-To" page we give some suggestions about making a Holy Hour.

Christmas is an emotional time of the year. It is a time of joy and sorrow. I feel I should share some thoughts with you about our recent church sorrow, the priest scandal. This is painful for all of us. The readings in advent highlight the struggle between darkness and light. This is a dark time for our church. I believe we must be the light in the darkness. **We are one family in Christ. When one member in the family is hurt we are all hurt.** A serious illness has invaded us. Whenever there is an illness in a family the members experience anger, compassion, sorrow, denial and confusion. **So what can we do?**

Many years ago I heard Bishop Sheen say we were coming into a time when the lay people would save the church. I believe that time is possibly now and **Jesus is the only way, the truth and the light. He tells us what to do. "Come to me all you who are burdened and I will refresh you."** Come to Him in prayer and place at His feet all the people who are hurt by this scandal. He promises us, **"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed you can say to this mountain move and it will move."** Praise and thank God for your gift of faith and the gift to believe He is healing our church; **Pray, believe and forgive.** Jesus tells us we must **"Forgive seventy times seven."** Ask Him for the grace to forgive all those who have hurt His children, His church and His Sacred Priesthood. Forgiveness is not easy but it is important for our spiritual and physical health. Anger and grudges imprison us and block our hearts from being open to the peace and love of Jesus Christ.

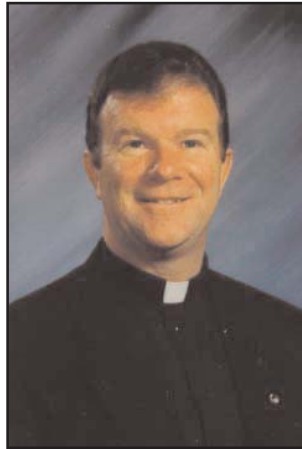
This is extremely painful for everyone especially the wonderful holy priests that serve us in our archdiocese. Let us make an extra effort to reach out to our priests to let them know we love and support them. Let us renew our **Prayer Power Mission to be Christ's Lamplighters.** Do not be afraid. **Turn to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and seek His guidance and wisdom in the Eucharist.** Thank you for all you do for Prayer Power and the Church. God bless you and may you and your family have a happy and holy Christmas.

Love you always,

Peg


Two Different Kelly's Make A Difference At St. Bridget's

Father John Kelly loves people. He asks and listens to people express what they need and he enjoys trying to help them get it. When he was assigned to St. Bridget's in East Falls as pastor, he did what he does best, **he asked his people for their ideas and thoughts about how they could grow their parish and prepare for their 150th anniversary.**



Father John Kelly

of this great feast of All Souls is just wonderful. A follow-up to this is when people reach out to the spouse or family to offer the appropriate condolences because they were not aware of the death."

Father Kelly was 34 when he was ordained in 1989. **"Being a priest is a fulfilling life,** it is also a hard life because of all the adversity you face. At the same time it challenges us and it is through those challenges that we begin to define ourselves." When asked about the priesthood, father replies "Now more than ever we need good and holy priests. It is a great time to be a priest. Young men who enter the priesthood know what they are getting into."

St. Bridget's was the home parish of the famous John B. Kelly Family. John B. and his son, Jack Kelly, were both Olympic gold medal winners for crew. John B's daughter, Grace, was a famous movie star and later the Princess of Monaco. The parishioners were proud of their heritage and wanted to invite members of the Kelly Family and members of The Royal Family in Monaco to their 150th celebration.

Father had challenges. The church funds were low - he needed to increase the Mass attendance - he also needed a lot of volunteers to help him fix up the church to make it beautiful for the commemoration celebration. He walked around the neighborhood and talked to the people. He offered to bless the neighbors' homes both catholic and non catholic. He organized block and neighborhood blessings. He asked his parishioners to help fix up the church. They responded quickly, efficiently and willingly. Volunteers refinished the floors, fixed the roof, worked on the heater and made other repairs in the church.

They formed "The Friends of St. Bridget's" to plan for the big celebration. They established the **"Living Faith Award"** in memory of their 150th anniversary. They now give this award every year at an annual dinner to the individuals who are recognized for living out their faith. Father explained that, "This dinner gives us an opportunity for our parish family to come together to celebrate and affirm our faith."

In November Father hangs a banner from the ceiling to the ground listing the **names and pictures** of all the parishioners who have died throughout the year. "Putting the name and the face together in the context

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.

How To Make A Holy Hour

“Come to me all you who labor and are burdened and I will refresh you.” Stop what you are doing. **Pause for a moment.** Ask yourself what these words mean to you? What burdens are you carrying, are they small frustrations or large challenges? Tell Jesus you come to Him with your burdens. Ask Him to empty you of your thoughts and fill you with His thoughts. Rest a few minutes in His love; place your burdens in His hands. **This is a good way to start a Holy Hour.**

How to Pray before the Blessed Sacrament?

There are as many ways to pray as there are words to speak. You can say the rosary, read a spiritual book, read one of the many prayer books with different Holy Hour prayers. You can find some of these books at www.prayerpowervigil.org You can just sit and talk to Our Lord in your own way. Just sit and do nothing.

How long should my visit be?

If you have never made a Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament it might be wise to start out slowly. Begin by making shorter visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Make twenty minute visits then extend them to thirty minutes and then an hour. I find that the last fifteen minutes of the hour are usually the richest because it takes me that long for my mind to quiet down.

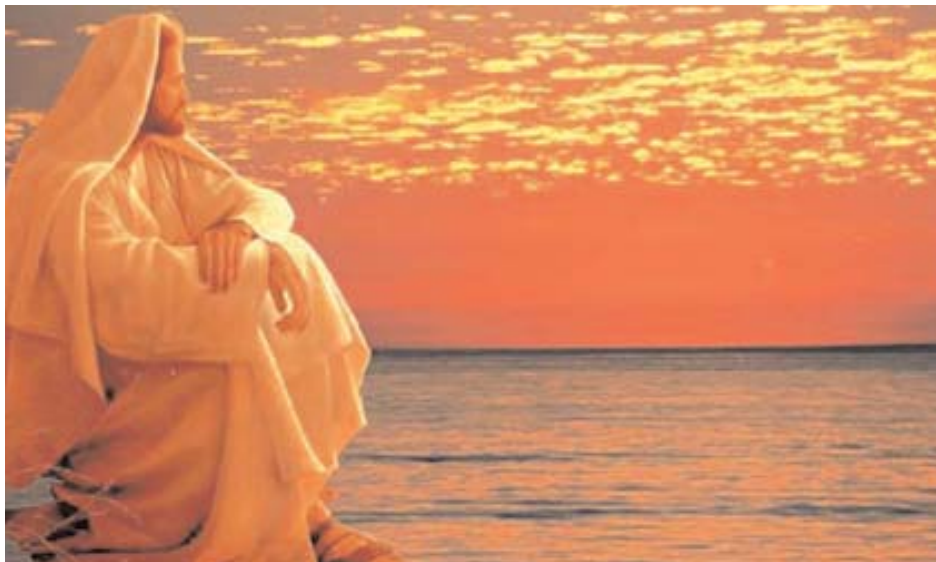
Must I kneel?

When you visit Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament you can **sit, kneel or stand.** Get physically comfortable. You are visiting your best friend.

How do I begin?

Open your visit by thanking Jesus for being here for you. Prayers of thanks help us still our hearts. Sit quietly gazing at the crucifix, tabernacle or a holy card. You can say your rosary. Another way to approach prayer and a Holy Hour is to just say "Here I am Jesus. I'm tired. I don't know what to do. Show me the way. Lead me in this Holy Hour. Lead me in prayer." And Jesus will lead you. You'll pick up a book that will have just what you're looking for in it. Jesus knows what you need right now in this minute and He will lead you to it if you let Him. Talking to Jesus like you talk to a friend is a fruitful way to pray.

Remember Our Lord is so pleased when you make the effort to visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament. He is meek and gentle of heart. Just be there and you will be pleasing God more than you can ever imagine.



Foot-Soldiers Through Time

Finding Peace Through Prayer

Passion is a word that comes to mind when one listens to Drew Mason speak from his heart about Our Lady, the rosary and adoration. Drew began his devotion to a Holy Hour when he was an undergraduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. While many students were caught up in the academic demands and the social scene college life affords, Drew realized the importance of a faith centered life. Against many adversaries he started a Holy Hour at Penn's Newman Center.

Now in his thirties, a husband, father and businessman, his faith has evolved and expanded to not only encompass a love for The Eucharist but to spread the word of Mary. He believes that the miracle of Fatima is a true message from heaven. This message hit home for Drew after his father passed away. He felt compelled to pray for his father's soul and all the souls in purgatory. He feels with the utmost importance that everyone should be made aware of the facts about "the great happenings at Fatima in 1917."

Our Lady's message to "Pray the rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world, end of war and save souls" resonates through Drew as greatly as the light which radiated from Mary on the hillside. He is impassioned by "the power of prayers that are centered on The Eucharist." He continues, "Our Lady urges us to pray the rosary, make visits to The Blessed Sacrament and go to daily mass."

Drew believes you have nothing to risk and so much to gain by a devotion to a Holy Hour. He obtains a tangible grace when he is in front of The Eucharist which enables him to make major decisions regarding family, finances and career. Drew said, "You can transcend the laws of time by praying for your children in this manner." He admires Mother Teresa for encouraging her sisters to spend hours in front of The Eucharist before going out to serve others.

He calls all those who honor Our Lord in Blessed Sacrament and say the rosary God's foot-soldiers. He believes, "If you want peace get down on your knees and pray for it."

Prayer Power Family Members



Guest from Chestnut Hill College Holy Hour



Members of St. Katharine Siena Parish



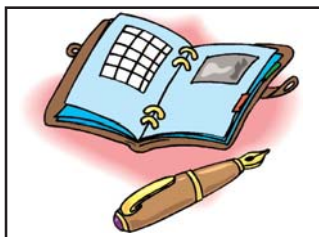
Mary Pat Palmer distributes name tags



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Prayer Power's Mission

We are an intercessory Eucharistic Prayer movement
Praying for three specific intentions:

**Christ is the center of families,
An increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life,
Holy priests and religious on fire with love for our Lord in the Eucharist.**

Every Prayer Power member has a priest to pray for.
We ask you to pray for him every night at dinner.

For more information on Prayer Power please call
610.962.0951 www.prayerpowervigil.org