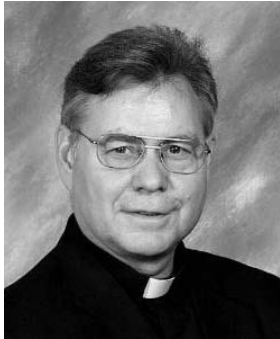


ST. MICHAEL PRAYER WARRIORS

DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF PRIESTS
AUGUST 2008

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

Priest Profile: Fr. Mark T. Watkins



FR. MARK T. WATKINS
PASTOR ST. LAWRENCE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Mark Watkins is the pastor of St. Lawrence Church in Price Hill. He grew up in Dayton and graduated from Chaminade High School. After graduating from St Gregory College Seminary in 1976, he entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Norwood, though left

before ordination. He obtained a Master's in Philosophy from Duquesne University and eventually returned to Mount St. Mary's and completed seminary studies and formation, ordained by Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk in 1991. His first assignment was Associate Pastor of Holy Angels in Sidney followed by serving as Vocation Director from 1993 to 2006.

When asked about prayer and his vocation, Fr. Watkins was quick to say that while he knew people were praying for him during his seminary days, he didn't 'feel it'. "Prayer is not a matter of feeling or twisting God's arm." He knows, however, that those prayers assisted

him during those days, especially the tough ones. In the last couple of years, he certainly knows that people are praying for him as pastor and that they are sustaining him with these prayers. Father Watkins asks the saints to intercede for people he is praying for as well particular causes like the end of abortion. He has a very special relationship with the Blessed Mother and goes to her often.

"Prayer" Fr. Watkins said, "is essential to salvation. It brings us to a closer relationship with the Lord and, if our hearts are open, we will be more conformed to the Will of God. This is heaven on earth."

The Holy Father Speaks

Christians, in all their actions, are called to offer true worship to God. Here the intrinsically Eucharistic nature of Christian life begins to take shape. The Eucharist, since it embraces the concrete, everyday existence of the believer, makes possible, day by day, the progressive transfiguration of all those called by grace to reflect the image of the Son of God (cf. *Rom* 8:29ff.). There is nothing authentically

human – our thoughts and affections, our words and deeds – that does not find in the sacrament of the Eucharist the form it needs to be lived to the full. Here we can see the full human import of the radical newness brought by Christ in the Eucharist: the worship of God in our lives cannot be relegated to something private and individual, but tends by its nature to permeate every aspect of our existence. Worship

pleasing to God thus becomes a new way of living our whole life, each particular moment of which is lifted up, since it is lived as part of a relationship with Christ and as an offering to God. The glory of God is the living man (cf. *1 Cor* 10:31). And the life of man is the vision of God. (203)

- Pope Benedict XVI,
Sacramentum Caritatis 71

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ Mass for the Renewal of the Priesthood and an Increase of Vocations, August 22, OLHSC—Noon.
- ◆ Prayer Warriors Kick Off Event, September 21, OLHSC
- ◆ Discernment Retreat, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, October 3-4, 2008
- ◆ Frohlich Farm High School Event, October 5, 2008
- ◆ For details, see the 'Upcoming Events' page at cincinnati vocations.org



**ST. MICHAEL
PRAYER WARRIORS**

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ENCOURAGING THE
YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF
CINCINNATI TO LIVE
THEIR FAITH RADICALLY
AS PRIESTS AND
RELIGIOUS OF JESUS
CHRIST FOR THE
SALVATION OF SOULS!

HOLY FATHER'S AUG PRAYER INTENTION:

THAT GOD'S PEOPLE'S
ANSWER TO THE COM-
MON CALLING TO HOLI-
NESS AND MISSION MAY
BE FOSTERED BY CARE-
FUL DISCERNMENT OF
CHARISMS AND CON-
STANT COMMITMENT TO
SPIRITUAL AND CUL-
TURAL FORMATION.

St. Michael Prayer Warriors is an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Vocation Office whose members agree to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life for at least one hour per month. Voluntary sacrifice is also encouraged as an offering of self for the gift of vocations. The 'Prayer Warriors' newsletter is published ten times per year, and is distributed electronically to parishes, seminarians, members, and potential candidates for the seminary.

Members also agree to encourage their pastor in his own ongoing conversion, for priests remain the best recruiter of priests. For this, members will pray for their bishops and priests during their hour of adoration.

As the Master instructs us to pray for more laborers for His fields, we willingly agree to this undertaking.

To enroll for the monthly newsletter, send an email to vocations@catholiccincinnati.org or call the Vocation Office at 513-421-3131.

Prayer Intentions, August



**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—
AUGUST 15**

This month features the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This solemnity

celebrates the day Our Blessed Mother was assumed into heaven, body and soul. This is our hope—that just as Mary, a creature—entered heaven body and soul, so will we, one day; on the last day. Let us pray for faith, hope and love but especially hope—hope in the mercy of Our Lord, Mary's Son.

Prayer Intentions:

- Archbishop Pilarczyk
- Pastor of your Parish
- Men beginning or returning to the seminary and their studies and the instructors teaching them.

Outline of Prayer for August

- Rosary, meditation on the Glorious Mysteries
- Scripture Reading: The Visitation and Magnificat, Luke 1:30-56
- August 15th is the Solemnity

of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In your private prayer, ask Our Lord Jesus Christ to call young people to be holy priests and consecrated men and women. Pray also for the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Priests, to intercede for us.

A project for Children: Have school children write a thank you note to the priests who serve the school or parish they are affiliated with.

Sacrifice: Turn the television off for one whole evening each week and spend time together as a family—pray the Rosary or discuss the Scripture passage and then play some games together.

Charity: Pray for young people who may be considering a religious vocation—recommend or give books and materials that may help them in their discernment process.

