

ST. MICHAEL PRAYER WARRIORS

DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF PRIESTS

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Archbishop Profile: Dennis M. Schnurr



ARCHBISHOP DENNIS M. SCHNURR

Archbishop Dennis Schnurr was born in Sheldon, Iowa and has three sisters and two brothers. He attended Catholic grade school and high school before attending and graduating from Loras College in Dubuque. It was during his junior year of college that he felt a call to the priesthood. He entered seminary and graduated with a master's degree in theology from the Gregorian University, in Rome and was ordained to the priesthood in July 1974 for the Diocese of Sioux City. Additionally, he holds a doctorate in Canon Law from The Catholic University of America. From 1991 to 1993, he served as the National Executive Director of World Youth Day in Denver. In April of 2001, he was ordained a bishop for the Diocese of Duluth and then was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Cincinnati.

The Archbishop first began thinking about a vocation to the priesthood in the 8th grade based on an 'invitation' from his pastor, whom he greatly respected, to consider the priesthood. When asked about young men who

are discerning a vocation to the priesthood, he started by reminding us that everyone has a vocation, which prompts each one of us to ask 'What is God's purpose for my life?' There is a common vocation for all – that God is calling us back to Himself. We have to discern what that path will be. Archbishop Schnurr recalls Pope Benedict XVI and his advice to 'remember the basics – to be the Harvest Master, through prayer and fasting.' When we give ourselves generously back to God who created us, we will find peace, joy and the fullness of life.

Archbishop Schnurr's parents were both very supportive of his choice to enter the seminary. Likewise, he reminds all parents to understand that your children are God's children and God loves your child as much and more than you do for His love is infinite. He wants each child to experience the fullness that only He can give by knowing God's will for them. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray they understood, 'Thy will be done' as coming to know God's will. It is in following His Will that we will truly find fullness of life.

The most memorable day of his priesthood was more of an event than a day – 1993 World Youth Day in Denver. This was a transformative time for the Archbishop. When asked by Archbishop Pilarczyk to be the National Executive Director, he didn't know much about pilgrimages and wasn't sure that such a large, complex event was going to work. But through the prayers and hard work of

many people, it turned out to be an extraordinary event yet vastly different than what he had imagined. He didn't even recognize it! He saw it as the work of the Holy Spirit. A half a million young people joined the Pope for a week-long celebration of faith. What stands out for Archbishop Schnurr was the enormous potential and generosity of young people who love their Catholic Faith and want to be challenged. He continues to be a huge supporter of youth ministry programs.

Finally, when asked about the importance of prayer in his life and ministry, Archbishop Schnurr replied that 'Prayer is where I hear the Lord speak to me. I continually strive to hear His voice.' He makes a daily Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament and asks the Lord how he can use his talents. "Amazing things have transpired in my priesthood" remembers the Archbishop. There have been times when people have wanted him to say 'Yes' to a request that he wanted to say 'No' to. It has been in the quiet of prayer that he came to acknowledge and understand that "If I give myself generously, Christ will take care of the rest." He reminds us that if we are truly Christians, which means 'anointed ones', how can we not listen and be faithful? Although we may not always be able to see the fruits of our labor, if we have spent ourselves doing the Lord's work we are following Him. Ultimately, the Archbishop knows that it is Christ's Church and Christ is using us as His instruments.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ College Day at the Josephinum, February 16
- ◆ Mass for the Renewal of the Priesthood and an Increase of Vocations, February 27. OLHSC at Noon.
- ◆ Welcome Weekend at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, March 27-28
- ◆ St. Michael Prayer Warriors Conference : 26 April at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, Norwood, Ohio.
- ◆ For details, see the 'Upcoming Events page at cincinnati.vocations.org



**ST. MICHAEL
PRAYER WARRIORS**

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Archbishop Dennis Schnurr's Coat of Arms

Episcopal Motto - **Seek the Face of the Lord**

This phrase is drawn from Psalm 104 and expresses the conviction that Christ's followers must always look to Christ as the focal point for their pilgrim journey on earth. The intention is to remind us to see the face of Christ in every person we meet and to be the hands of Christ in every event that we are involved in.



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 FEB PRAYER INTENTION:

THAT THE PASTORS OF
THE CHURCH MAY AL-
WAYS BE DOCILE TO
THE ACTION OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT IN THEIR
TEACHING AND IN THEIR
SERVICE TO GOD'S
PEOPLE.

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, February



CHAIR OF ST. PETER—FEBRUARY
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Saint Peter was the leader of the Twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus. A Galilean fisherman and one of the first called to be a disciple, he was with Jesus during events witnessed only by a few Apostles,

such as the Transfiguration. From the earliest days of the Church, Saint Peter has been recognized as the Prince of the Apostles. Saint Peter, the first bishop of Rome, was crucified in Rome in 64 A.D, upside down for he made it known that he was not worthy to be crucified in the same manner as Our Lord.

Prayer Intentions:

- Pope Benedict XVI
- Archbishops Pilarczyk & Schnurr
- Pastor and Associate Pastor of your Parish
- Seminarians at Mount St. Mary's Seminary
- Those in the application process for entrance to the seminary in the fall.

Outline of Prayer for Feb

- Rosary, meditation on the Luminous Mysteries

- Scripture Readings: The Keys to Peter: Matthew 16: 13—20
- Meditate on the blessing of the Church established by Christ and having a visible father to authoritatively lead the Church.
- A Project for Children: Look up the history of the sculpture in the picture over the 'Altar of the Chair' in St. Peter's Basilica I Rome by Bernini.

Sacrifice: Consider fasting a day a week in February for your pastor, the Archbishops, and the Pope.

Charity: Invite your pastor to dinner and/or donate to your local food pantry in honor of your pastor.

