

ST. MICHAEL PRAYER WARRIORS

DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF PRIESTS
MARCH 2009

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Priest Profile: Fr. Martin Fox



FR. MARTIN FOX
PASTOR—ST. MARY'S AND
ST. BONIFACE PARISH—
PIQUA OHIO

Fr. Martin Fox was one of 7 children and raised at Annunciation Parish in Clifton. He graduated from Walnut Hills HS and the University of Cincinnati with a degree in history. He left the Catholic Church and attended a Pentecostal – Assemblies of God church for close to eight years before

moving to an Evangelical church for a few more years. He returned to the Catholic Church while working in politics and living in Washington DC. During a conversation with a priest, he was first asked to consider the priesthood. Fr. Fox promised the priest that he would think and pray about it – which he did and discovered the Lord was indeed calling him to the priesthood. His mother had wanted him to be a priest – a Jesuit – and when he returned to Cincinnati and told his family, many responded they were not surprised.

Father Fox was ordained for the Archdiocese in 2003 and is currently the pastor of St. Mary's and St. Boniface parishes in Piqua. When asked about the highlight of the priesthood, Father immediately responded with hearing confession. He described the joy of

getting to 'see a grace at work and people being released from the burden of sin.'

Prayer is of great importance to Father Fox – both others praying for him as well as his own prayer life. His own father prayed constantly for him while he was in the seminary and it is a great comfort just seeing his name in the petition book at the Adoration Chapel in Piqua now.

When asked to give advice to young men considering the priesthood and their families, he said first to families – 'Don't be afraid to support your sons and daughters, because if God is calling them then they will not be totally happy in anything else.' To the young people he said – 'Be close to the Lord both in prayer and the Sacramental Life. Spend time with Him.'

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ Welcome Weekend at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, March 13-14
- ◆ Mass for the Renewal of the Priesthood and an Increase of Vocations, March 27. OLHSC at Noon.
- ◆ Live-In Weekend at the Josephinum, April 16-18
- ◆ Andrew Dinner at Holy Angels, Sidney, April 22
- ◆ Call of the King—Sunday April 26—7PM Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center
- ◆ For details, see the 'Upcoming Events' page at cincinnati-vocations.org



The Holy Father Speaks

The force which animates and guides the spiritual life of the priest is pastoral charity. It is a participation in Jesus Christ's own pastoral charity, a gift freely bestowed by the Holy Spirit and likewise a task and a call which demand a free and committed response on the part of the priest.

The essential content of this is the total gift of self to the Church, "Pastoral charity is the virtue by which we imitate Christ in

his self - giving and service. It is not just what we do, but our gift of self, which manifests Christ's love for his flock. Pastoral charity determines our way of thinking and acting, our way of relating to people.

The gift of self is directed toward the Church. This was true of Christ who "loved the Church and gave Himself up for her" and the same must be true for the priest. With pastoral charity, the priest is in a position to make this a

loving choice. As a result, the Church and souls become his first interest, and with this concrete spirituality he becomes capable of loving the universal Church and that part of it entrusted to him with the deep love of a husband for his wife. The gift of self has no limits, marked as it is by the same apostolic and missionary zeal of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

- Pope John Paul II, *Pastores Dabo Vobis* 23



**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 MARCH PRAYER INTENTION:

THAT THE ROLE OF
WOMEN MAY BE MORE
APPRECIATED AND USED
TO GOOD ADVANTAGE IN
EVERY COUNTRY IN THE
WORLD.

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, March



ST. PATRICK—MARCH 17

Saint Patrick was of Romano-British origin and born about the year 389. He was captured by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping to mainland Europe on a ship with Irish hounds. He went to Rome and be-

came a priest. Later made a bishop, he returned to Ireland to spread the Gospel message. Patrick preached throughout Ireland for forty years and converted many, working countless miracles.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of Saint Patrick's missionary efforts in Ireland was that he proved that any Christian could live out the Scriptural commandment to spread the word of God while "exalting and confessing his wonders before all the nations that are under the heavens."

Prayer Intentions:

- Archbishops Pilarczyk
- Archbishop Schnurr
- Pastor and Associate Pastor of your Parish

Outline of Prayer for March

- Rosary, meditation on the Sorrowful Mysteries during Lent
- Scripture Reading: The Passion of Our Lord—any of the Gospels.
- Meditate on how great Our Lord's love is for me, that He would die for my sins AND institute the priesthood and the Eucharist for my salvation.

A project for Children: Borrow or purchase a book on St. Patrick. Print a picture of St. Patrick and have the children color while you read the story of this great Irish saint.

Sacrifice/Charity: Offer up a daily sacrifice for your pastor, bishop and the Holy Father.

