

Towel of Veronica

This is to be a ministry of mercy for priests who have lost a loved one. The purpose—to bring consolation in the midst of suffering and to show the priests they are not alone in their sufferings.

JANUARY 2024



REMEMBERING FR. EVAN HARKINS —1985-2020—

Fr. Harkins grew up in Belton, Missouri, and first felt called to the priesthood when he was 8 years old. He was a parishioner at St. Sabina in Belton, where he was an altar server and Boy Scout. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 1999. He graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School Seminary in Hannibal, Missouri in 2002, and Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri in 2006, and Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in 2010. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood on May 29, 2010, and celebrated his first mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MONTHLY LETTER

Dear Members of the Towel of Veronica,

As we begin the New Year of 2024, the first edition of the Towel of Veronica Newsletter is presented.

It was back in January of 2020 (**January 28, 2020**) that our diocese received some very sad and devastating news. The death of one of our own beloved diocesan priests, Father Evan Harkins, had died suddenly and by suicide. This news broke many hearts and created a whole for a while that was hard to fill and understand. Many factors led to his sudden death, one that was mentioned was the medication Fr. Harkins had been on. For those of us that knew Fr. Harkins, his joy and love of the priesthood, his holiness, and angelic smile, are all that we can remember now.

It was in the following month of February 2020, while at adoration, I was praying for our bishop and priests, something powerful happened. I was in the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel, praying deeply, asking Jesus to console our bishop and priests, because of the great sorrow and anguish I saw on our bishops face at the loss of Fr. Evan Harkins. Our bishop was grieving deeply, as all our community, and priests were, so I asked Jesus, "I want to console him in his sufferings". I heard these words, "Towel of Veronica.: I didn't know what that meant so I kept praying but as I looked up and to my right I heard those words again, "Towel of Veronica" my eyes caught hold of the stain glass window in the adoration chapel. There was the image of St. Veronica holding her veil with the image

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



TOWEL OF VERONICA PRAYER Heavenly Father, Bring consolation to your priests. Console them in their sorrow and bring them the gift of constant faith. Knowing that you hear their cries for help they will rely on you. And seeing the hand of God in their neighbor, this offering will reflect the mercy and compassion of You. Pray for our priests!

CONTINUED ON PREVIOUS PAGE

REMEMBERING FR. EVAN HARKINS

His first assignment was at St. Therese Catholic Church in Kansas City, Missouri. In 2012, he was appointed pastor of St. James Catholic Church in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was studying canon law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He enjoyed rock climbing, traveling, being a Royals fan, learning French, and spending time with his family. More than anything, he loved being a priest, and spent every moment striving to grow ever closer to Our Lord. His greatest joy was serving the people of his parish and the church.

UPCOMING 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Remembrance of Fr. Evan Harkins

Day of prayer

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024

Solemnity of St. Joseph 6:00 pm

St. Mary, Independence

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024

St. Veronica 6:00 pm

Cathedral of St. Joseph

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

Memorial St. Faustina 8:00 am

St. Mary, Independence

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Memorial Mass (All Souls)

Bishop Johnston presiding 6:00 pm

St. Mary, Independence

THANK YOU

*Thank you, Chelsea Voboril for creating the
Towel of Veronica website! towelofveronica.com*

*Thank you, Sarah Smitka for creating the
Newsletter for the Towel of Veronica Apostolate*

Rosary

INTENTIONS

- 1 Priests
- 2 All Souls
- 3 Apostolate
- 4 Towel of Veronica Members
- 5 Chaplain-Fr. Kendall Ketterlin



CONTINUED ON PREVIOUS PAGE

of Christ face imprinted on it. The more I prayed in the coming weeks and spoke with my spiritual director at the time, the ministry to pray for priests who have lost a loved one, became clear. The purpose of the ministry that was impressed upon me was to show priests they are not alone in their sufferings. They are not alone. As St. Veronica extended her hand with her veil in mercy to Jesus, we, as members of the Towel of Veronica Apostolate, are to do the same, extending our hand with acts of mercy through prayers, cards and notes of support and care.

This New Year, **January 28, 2024**, will mark the 4th anniversary of Fr. Evan Harkins passing. A day set aside for remembrance for the Members of the Apostolate. A day of prayer and petition to Almighty God for the repose of the soul of Fr. Evan Harkins. How we as members use this day of grace, can be significant in the heavenly realm. Through prayers, fasting, adoration, and Holy Mass, begging God to bring consolation to our bishop and priests in all their daily sufferings, let this annual day of remembrance, through prayer, always be significant to God's Holy Priesthood.

St. Veronica, pray for them

St. Joseph, pray for them

St. Faustina, pray for them

Lorie Sage

towelofveronica.com