



Adoremus Jesum

Volume 10

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TWENTY YEARS OF PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

On Corpus Christi Sunday in 1984 parishioners from two parishes, Blessed Sacrament and St. Joseph in Charleston, South Carolina joined to share the leadership and responsibilities of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament Church.

Today, twenty years later, they have two hundred and eighty-five adorers who have just celebrated their twentieth anniversary of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration on June 12, 2004 at the St. Joseph Life Center with a reception and sit down dinner. The principal speaker was Rev. Gregory Wilson of the Cathedral Parish in Charleston. Recognitions for service were made and celebratory remarks were given by the Pastor, Father Joseph Hanley and the various leaders of adoration.

I, Charles Sirisky, who has been their head-coordinator for adoration for the passed twelve years, shared some of my experiences both as a leader and as an adorer. One of these was when we had this great idea to give out prayer group names to each of our four divisions. The adorers in each group now identify themselves by their group name: midnight to 6 a.m. we called the Gethsemane Group, 6 a.m. to noon is called the Marian Group, noon to 6 p.m. we named the Angelus Group and 6 p.m., to midnight is known as the Vespers Group. It was far more meaningful to each group to be known by their newly assigned prayer group names than to be referred to as Division 1, Division 2, etc..

Gethsemane Group
Marian Group
Angelus Group
Vespers Group

I feel that I can speak with validity by saying that the truly dedicated adorers who sustained their holy hour for years resemble people of a religious order. To devote a weekly holy hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament over a period of years transforms the adorer into a true follower of Jesus Christ. I have seen the transformations and have experienced my own. I have increased my knowledge of adoration, Eucharistic miracles, the history of the Blessed Sacrament, and the saints of the Eucharist. I am especially heartened by the homilies of St. John Chrysostom and many other saints who would point to the



tabernacle and say, "He is really there!"

A short time ago, Monsignor Donald Gorski, a mission priest from Zorritos, Peru, was visiting our pastor, Father Joseph Hanley, during which time he spent many hours in adoration in our chapel. One Sunday in his homily he spoke about the gold mine in our parish. He was referring to the adoration chapel with twenty-four hours of adoration daily. He said that the parish needed to mine the gold and with such a rich supply the chapel should be filled with adorers every hour of every day. This, of course, is my fervent prayer.

Charles Sirisky,
Head-coordinator of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration
Blessed Sacrament and St. Joseph Parishes
Charleston, South Carolina



"An Oasis of Light and Peace"



The priests and I here at Sts. Peter and Paul Church did much to prepare our parishioners for the inestimable gift of Perpetual Adoration of Our Eucharistic Lord which started officially on May 13, 2004.

During the Sundays of Lent, we preached on the Holy Eucharist based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. On the Sunday before Palm Sunday, we preached specifically on PEA and had our first recruitment. Recruitment has been ongoing since then. Every Sunday we mention the need for more adorers. We have approximately 550 at the moment. Every hour is covered, and we DO NOT leave our Lord unattended even for the briefest moment (cf Redemptionis Sacrament, n. 138). After this initial period of catechesis and recruitment, we needed a date within a reasonable period of time to begin PEA in earnest.

I chose May 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, which fell on Thursday (an appropriate Eucharistic Day). I was well aware of the Eucharistic tone of the Fatima apparitions, beginning with the apparitions of the Angel of Fatima. What I did not know at the time was that May 13 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and that St. Peter Julian Eymard (whom I already knew and loved) founded his Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers on that day in honor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. I was, needless to say, overjoyed when I realized this happy "coincidence."

The weekend after we inaugurated PEA the local newspaper, the Daily Breeze, featured a very positive article about our new chapel. On the front page above the masthead appeared the words: "Wilmington chapel stays open for prayer around the clock./A3." Then on the inside a beautiful color photograph of our chapel with an accompanying article entitled, "Finding time for God." The caption below the photo is, "Continuous prayer is the watchword at Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Wilmington." The lead in to the story is: "It's 3 a.m. and candles are burning inside a tiny chapel in Wilmington, an area where gang violence and other crimes have long plagued the community....This oasis of light and peace is bringing out more than a few people to do something not normally seen here at this hour - *pray*. When all hell is breaking loose elsewhere, something entirely different will be happening at the new Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church."

We consider ourselves very blessed.
Father G. Peter Irving, III
Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church
Wilmington, CA

Enflamed by the Grace

(An Adorer's Reflection)

As I sat in Adoration recently I wondered exactly how I got there. What was it that made me yearn to know Him better. I believe that desire started before time! Yes, Jesus loved us before time began and He devised this wonderful plan which allows us to know Him and love Him. He initiates this plan at Baptism. By the grace of this sacrament we get many wonderful gifts. I just love presents and think about the person who gifted me each time I use them. I pray that I think about my gifts from Jesus each time I use them like peace, joy and wisdom. He gave these gifts freely at Baptism and they can be used all day long. As we become more aware of these gifts and as we receive the sacraments throughout our life we are enflamed by the power of the Holy Spirit. **This is how we "bridge the gap" between what we believe as Catholics and how we live our lives.**

We are called to be disciples of Jesus and, just as the first disciples were enflamed by the Spirit, we too have the same grace to do exactly what they did! They proclaimed the Good News with enthusiasm and joy. This newsflash that Jesus lived and died and rose again is two thousand years old and yet still is the best news ever! Jesus reminds us of His ongoing love in the Eucharist. This is His gift to us—His very own Flesh and Blood—and this is the gift that just keeps giving and enflaming and engulfing us with His precious love.

Yes, I sit in adoration because I yearn to be with my Creator who thought of me before time began and has never stopped thinking of me since!

2004 Vacation Pilgrimages

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