



Adoremus Jesum

Volume 11

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FULFILLING THEIR MISSION

Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
Blessed Sacrament Monastery
Anchorage, Alaska

The order of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration was founded in Rome in 1807. Their Mission is to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament perpetually and to pray for the Pope, the Church and the people of the world.

The Blessed Sacrament Monastery in Anchorage, Alaska is home for six sisters of the order. Sister Maria, a nun for fifty years is the Mother Superior. She gave this brief account of how they modified the hours for adoration in order to fulfill their mission of perpetual adoration.

“Seventeen years ago we opened our chapel of adoration to the public for seven days a week 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Each hour is attended by five to eight adorers. There are about fifty-five people who have chosen special hours daily or weekly, and there are always visitors year round who come to adore. My sisters and I are in the chapel for different hours of the day for our Prayers in Common and for The Liturgy of the Hours. We also cover the hours from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. when morning Mass starts. There is never a time when Our Blessed Lord is alone on the altar. We feel secure and blessed with the extra people who help us to fulfill our mission.

Every first Friday the people come to adore from 8:30 a.m. through the night until the 8:00 a.m. Saturday Mass. This is so beautiful. The people are ever so grateful that we have made adoration this available. If you are ever in Anchorage, come and experience the love of the Lord in our humble chapel. Please pray for us that we can continue our mission. We will pray for you and your wonderful work to spread adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.”

“Serenity and peace from within us does not come from the removal of the outward causes of worry and trouble which are always around. Instead, serenity and peace within us comes from the discovery of God as our genuine source of happiness.”

Alaska Radio Mission, station KNOM

MY SUMMER VACATION

One day a week I take a summer vacation trip. I like taking the same journey every time.

I anticipate the day when my hour comes, to spend time with Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist. I start packing my baggage the day before, making sure I pack up all my concerns, requests, needs and wants, fears and worries, and get ready for departure.

I check in and write down my request for a special favor. There’s no waiting because I already have a ticket to journey with Him, we all do. Jesus Himself paid for my ticket with His death and resurrection and He confirms my reservation every time I pray to Him.

Time to depart. I check my heavy baggage and prepare to bring my carryon (my Bible, my rosary and myself). There is no screening to enter His presence. God welcomes everyone and anyone who wants to journey through life with Him. And on this short one hour trip, I have a window seat in the presence of God.

As the journey begins, I enter His presence and begin to unpack all those problems, concerns and worries I brought along. All that heavy baggage. He helps me sort out all those things I need, from all those things I really don’t, so I can concentrate on the journey and refresh my soul.



As I settle in and look out at the Eucharist I feel comforted. My weekly summer vacation trip with Jesus has begun, and I am beginning to finally relax, to feel at peace, to leave all that baggage I didn’t need far behind.

As I close my eyes and gaze out of myself into God’s heart I can see His unbounded love of me with all my inadequacies and weaknesses. As I relax in His presence and trust in Him on this journey I look out of myself and can see the beauty of the endless expanse of His love of the world, His incredible patience and boundless forgiveness.

The journey only takes an hour, but in that time I have been comforted and refreshed. My hope is renewed that I will be ok; that things will be all right when my journey (my hour) has ended and I return home. Somehow my bags are now lighter, but when I arrive home and unpack, I still have all I need.

I’m really glad I’m a frequent flier and I wish everyone could take advantage of this wonderful vacation opportunity to take a one hour journey with God in His Eucharistic presence.

Andy C. 06/29/04

AN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION

by Father Burns Seeley, S.S.J.C.



Q. Why does the priest put water in the wine? Jesus did not do this at the Last Supper.

A. "Watering down" of the wine was commonly done in Our Lord's day. So it is possible that this was the case also at the Last Supper. But more

importantly, in the history of the Church a drop or so of water was commonly added to the wine in the chalice to symbolize both the divinity (wine) of Christ and His humanity (water).

Thus in the Tridentine Mass we find at the offertory the following words:

"O God, who established the nature of man in wondrous dignity, and still more admirably restored it, grant that by the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in His Divinity, who humbled himself to share in our humanity, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen."

Q. Recently there was a note in our Parish bulletin that if one cannot find time to attend Eucharistic Adoration in person, you can click on an Internet site featuring a video cam of the Blessed Sacrament, so you can ADORE the Lord in the Eucharist right from your computer. Is this really Eucharistic Adoration of the Real Presence?

A. No, we cannot have Eucharistic Adoration via the Internet on your monitor. What I mean is that it is impossible. The same idea is when we see images of the Holy Father saying Mass, we are neither in his presence nor attending his Mass. This does not mean that we cannot adore Our Blessed Lord from our homes while looking at an image of the Blessed Sacrament. But we are not in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament itself. The image is not the reality.

"In the Blessed Sacrament a heavenly school is open to me, with the best teacher one can possibly imagine, Jesus Christ himself."
(Bl. Pope John XXIII)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Every parish actively involved in Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration should have this useful pamphlet which addresses the norms for adoration:

Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist

Liturgy Documentary Series No. 11 publication 5-106 by the United States Catholic Conference. Phone No: 1-800-235-8722. In the Washington metropolitan area or from outside the United States, call 301-209-9020.



FAVORS GRANTED

Thank you, Lord, for:

- the peaceful death of my Mom. She had family with her and received the sacraments just before she died.
- this special time of complete peace in your presence. I yearn for this special time.
- my health, family and friends especially during that difficult time. Also thank you for the miracles.
- my new song and all the blessings of this week for our parish family. You are our Awesome God.
- restoring my faith.
- giving my son success with his business when it didn't look like it would work.
- turning my son around and back on the path with You!
- my wife's successful breast surgery and that the tumor was benign.

Prayers are like seeds. It takes a while to see the results after they're planted. Sometimes it takes months or years for an answer. Seeds start out small, but they end up fruitful, just like prayers.



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