



Adoremus Jesum

Volume 12

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My Child in the Chapel

written by Alison Groestch

A few months ago, I was in deep prayer in the Adoration Chapel. From a distance, I heard the angelic voices of children. The chapel door opened and in walked a dear friend of mine, and her lovely children. I smiled as they walked in and knelt in front of the Tabernacle. My friend was there only a few short minutes, but her presence made a lasting impression on me. Then I wondered, bring MY boys to adoration? The idea was foreign to me and yet it sparked something deep within my soul. Jesus did say, "Let the children come" ...didn't He?

The next week, I took our three year old into the chapel with me. What a special (and scary) moment that was! My husband and I use the tag-team approach to minding our sons on Monday evenings. He usually hears us coming and makes his way out of the chapel. I hand over the one year old.

Then I proceed into the chapel with my three year old, we bow in front of the Tabernacle, and then he rushes to a basket for a prized rosary. We kneel and pray or look at a picture book. Sometimes he looks around the chapel, soaking everything in.

Our son knows the chapel is a very special place. He does try to be quiet, but he is a child. Normally we adore together for about 4 - 5 minutes, then we quietly exit the chapel.

My goal as parent is to introduce our sons to the Real Presence of Jesus outside the Mass. I want to plant a seed now while their minds are so pure. He knows the chapel is not a place for food, crayons, or small cars. I tell him everything we need is already there.

My hope is that one day we will all adore as a family. I pray my sons will go to the chapel and feel God's great love for them especially when they face trials.

At first, I was worried about bothering the other adorers. Now I take delight in their smiles of encouragement as my son and I enter the chapel. Aren't all children precious?

Editor's note: We are working toward having a scheduled time for small children to adore just as the schoolchildren are given their opportunity to spend time in the chapel. Let us welcome the little ones as Jesus has asked. Most of the time, their visits are brief, but their innocence is palpable in the Presence Jesus.

Alison, you are right, everything we need is already in the Tabernacle.



"My greatest happiness is to be before the Blessed Sacrament, where my heart is, as it were, in Its center."

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

"Gather the Children of the World Into His Presence"

Pope John Paul II

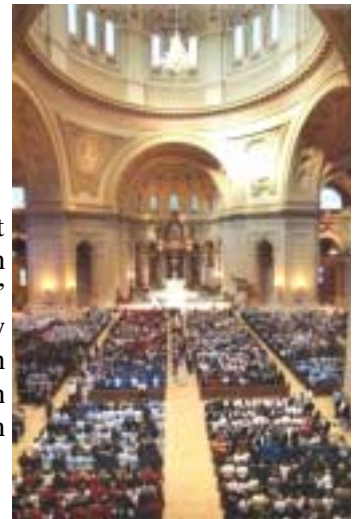
for the "Year of the Rosary 2003"

By Connie Schnieder

"Dear young friends, it is to your prayers that I want to entrust the problems of your own families and all the families of the world." This is a quote from our Holy Father's Christmas Letter to the World's Children. These words of our Holy Father inspired us here in St. Paul, Minnesota to start the program for the "Year of the Rosary". It is what initiated the filling of St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul with 3,200 children on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary October 7, 2003.

The children were bussed from surrounding areas for our first Children's Holy Fieldtrip. They joined in a procession of Our Lady's image down the center aisle, while praying the Rosary. The Most Blessed Sacrament was exposed on the high altar and the voices that filled the Cathedral were angelic. Most of these children had never experienced anything like this.

Begin now to do what you can to "Gather the Children of the World into His Presence" on October 7, World-wide Day of Prayer and any other day in the month of October, the month of the Rosary. Start your own Children's Holy Fieldtrips.



3,200 children
praying the Rosary

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:
www.mostholyroary.org

PREPARE FOR THE YEAR OF THE
EUCHARIST
2005
BUILD AND RE-BUILD DEVOTION TO
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
THROUGH EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
IN YOUR PARISH

RETIRED AND ADORING

Our parish is pretty much in a retirement community though younger families are moving in here. This beautiful community has more to offer than golfing, fishing, boating, craft shows and vacationing spots, we have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. Many of us were familiar with Forty Hours Devotion from our youth but few were acquainted with Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. When We learned that a priest was coming to a parish nearby in Springdale to start Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration we asked our then pastor, Fr. Joseph Enderlin, to invite the priest to our parish.

The priest came to St. Bernard's, gave a fantastic presentation , and helped us get organized to run the program. I must mention that John Alspaugh was the original Head Coordinator and with the assistance of four divisional coordinators did a wonderful job working out the initial wrinkles and bumps. They set the pace for good communications and our program is in its sixth year.

When our new pastor, Father Andrew Smith, came to our parish in January 2004, he invited another Eucharistic speaker to rekindle the fervor for adoration. It was beneficial to all. We now have two hundred and fifty adorers including substitutes.

We continue to work at drawing people to adoration. A few times a year we have a pot-luck dinner to refresh friendships and attract new adorers.



Also we keep a large calendar on an easel in the Narthex showing hours of adoration. New people are encouraged to sign on anytime. And we follow up on new parishioners to encourage their participation. I'm always open to new ideas.

There is a stream of prayer perpetually rising to our God to protect our people and the whole community. We are especially grateful to have this opportunity to continually offer to God the worship due Him in His real presence.

Head Coordinator, Paul Gergen
St. Bernard Parish
Bella Vista, Arkansas

Silence Is Realm in Which One Can Hear God, Says Pope

Further thoughts on these paradoxes from an adorer...

It is:

in the quiet of our lives that we hear His voice more clearly,
in the darkness of our lives when we begin to see Him more clearly,
in the depth of the night sky where we feel part of heavenly creation,
in the depth of our sorrow that we can truly feel His love,
in the light of truth that often we are blinded by our own insensitivity,
in our proudest moments that we are always called to humility,
in our weakest times when we are strengthened by faith,
in the eyes of our children that we see almighty God's love reflected,
in the time we spend in prayerful asking that we receive God's grace,
in simple bread and wine that we are gifted with His presence,
in spending an hour with Him that we touch eternity.

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