



Adoremus Jesum

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Hope Monstrance

Holy Father Blesses New Orleans Monstrance

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Several days after the flooding of Hurricane Katrina had receded, Pat and Susie Veters and I were the first people to enter the Perpetual Adoration chapel at St. Dominic's Parish. It was devastated. The flooding



had peaked at nearly 8 feet inside the chapel. All of the seats and kneelers had floated up in the water and then settled down into the mud in total disarray. Although the Tabernacle was secured to the ground, the wooden Altar had floated and ended up on its side outside the

Sanctuary. We dug through the muck and found the Monstrance, which had been in water for 3 weeks, and thought it had been ruined.

Not a house in St. Dominic's Parish survived the flooding. The parishioners **are** determined to rebuild. Susie Veters is the Director of the Archdiocese of New Orleans' Office of Eucharistic Adoration whose mission is to promote prayer before the Most Holy Eucharist. She'd heard about a "Pro-Life Monstrance" that had been blessed by the Holy Father and suggested that a Monstrance could be brought from New Orleans to Rome for a blessing too.



Michael McGee, a fellow parishioner, skilled in art restoration, spent over one hundred hours taking the Monstrance completely apart and restoring it. Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes agreed to write a letter directly to the Holy Father asking for the blessing and also the granting of a Plenary Indulgence to the faithful who come to pray when the Monstrance is used

for Eucharistic Adoration. The request was granted so a delegation from New Orleans headed for Rome.

This Monstrance was special for two reasons: (1) it's from one of the most devastated parishes in the Archdioceses, and (2) it's the exact Monstrance used by the Office of Eucharistic Adoration in all of the Archdiocesan literature on Adoration. It couldn't be a better symbol of the rebirth of the city.

Our group stood before the Holy Father and I made the introduction. The Holy Father was visibly impressed when he heard that there had been 18 Perpetual Adoration Chapels in New Orleans before the storm. He blessed the Monstrance with holy water and even agreed to give the pilgrims his white zucchetto (the skull cap worn by popes) in exchange for a new one we had purchased at the Roman clerical shop. It was a tearful, moving experience.

And now the newly named HOPE Monstrance ("Heart of Prayer and Evangelization") is back in New Orleans. It is traveling from parish to parish and from school to school to rein-



vigorate Eucharistic Adoration in the ruins of the devastated Archdioceses. It is traveling with the holy water font, the Papal zucchetto, and photos of the blessing. And a Plenary Indulgence (given under the usual conditions of participation at Mass, the Sacrament of Pen-



ance, the Apostles Creed and a prayer for the Holy Father) will be granted to the faithful who adore Jesus Christ truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist when displayed in the Monstrance. The Catholic

Church played an important role in the founding of New Orleans and in its growth. It will play an important role in the rebuilding, especially as it unites itself to Jesus Christ and His Church.

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Catholics United for the Faith

The Guardian of the Redeemer Chapter of Catholics United for the Faith is composed of members from various parishes in the area of San Jose, California. They started meeting at one another's homes in September of 2001 and were chartered as a Chapter by the headquarters of Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2001. As a chartered chapter, their purpose is to provide an opportunity for CUF members to pray together, share their faith, to cultivate fellowship, to study the teachings of the Church and to participate in apostolic action at a local level.

Over the years the group has participated in a myriad of apostolates ranging from bringing renowned Catholic Speakers to the Bay area to promoting Eucharistic Adoration in their Diocese.

Being mindful of their Bishop's words, they decided to promote Eucharistic Adoration in parishes where this was already established versus creating a chapel of their own. They do not oblige their members to any particular number of hours of adoration; they simply encourage it and devote as many hours as they personally can commit to. They posted information on their website when they first began promoting Adoration, and have received several inquiries over the years about Eucharistic Adoration in their area. Small as they are they strive to do things well in service to God and His Church.

For more information about CUF, visit www.cuf.org

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, writes of the need for constant Adoration:

"Only within the breathing space of adoration can the Eucharistic celebration indeed be alive; only if the Church and thus the whole congregation is constantly imbued with the waiting presence of the Lord, and with our silent readiness to respond, can the invitation to come together bring us into the hospitality of Jesus Christ and of the Church."



EDUCATION

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; ..." Matt.19:14

COME TO JESUS

A Kids Book for Eucharistic Adoration

By Anne Flanagan, FSP

Published by Pauline Books & Media, Boston © 2006

Here is a book to be used by an adult prayer leader to teach and guide children to pray with greater focus on the Eucharist. There are three brief Adoration outlines, basic prayers, scripture readings, reflection time, direction on how to say the Rosary, notes for the leader and resources. It's a small, soft cover book with only 47 pages, a timely learning tool.

If you have a short story about Eucharistic education or adoration that you would like to share with others, send it to newsletter@therealpresence.org. Not all stories will be used and none will be returned.

Are You A True Adorer Yet?

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament leads a true adorer to a new life. A feeling of peace and confidence renews the spirit so much so that the eyes will see Jesus in others; the tongue will speak of His love and encourage others to "Come to Him"; the heart and soul will be driven to labor for His cause. And conversations with the Lord are a common practice as heart speaks to Heart.

Adoration in the US

Currently there are 6,937 places in the United States which have Eucharistic Adoration listed on The Real Presence Directory and there are 766 places of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration (P.E.A.).

The five states with the highest totals are:

	<u>chapels</u>	<u>PEA chapels</u>
California	661	43
New York	612	33
Texas	538	62
Pennsylvania	506	40
Illinois	417	46

Visit www.therealpresence.org and click on Directory to find the sites in your state where there is Adoration. Refer to it when you go on vacation to another state so you never have to miss time in adoration.

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