



Adoremus Jesum

Volume 17

The Real Presence Association, Inc.
7030 West 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60638
Phone: 773-586-2352
Email: qcs@therealpresence.org
www.therealpresence.org

THE PHYSICAL MYSTERIES OF THE EUCHARIST

by Fr. Victor Warkulwiz of the Missionary Priests of the Blessed Sacrament

“The Eucharist is rightly called the greatest mystery of our Catholic Faith. It is a “mystery” in two senses. First it is a mystery because it is a religious rite. Religious rites are called “mysteries” and the celebration of the Eucharist is the supreme rite of the Church. It is also a mystery because it is something that can be known only through divine revelation and cannot be fully comprehended by reason. Being a mystery does not mean that we cannot know anything at all about the Eucharist. Rather, it means that the Eucharist is so profound that we can always learn something new about it.

The Eucharist actually contains a number of “mysteries,” in the sense meaning things that baffle or perplex. The mysteries are both supernatural and natural. The supernatural mysteries are those related to the sacramental and sacrificial aspects of the Eucharist. The natural, or physical, mysteries of the Eucharist are related to how it appears to our senses. They are called miracles.



Miracles violate the laws of nature, but they do not involve contradictions because the laws of nature are not necessities but are contingent, meaning that they depend on the will of God. But the Eucharist differs from other miracles in one significant way. We know that a miracle is taking place only through faith. Unlike other miracles, we don't perceive the miracles with our

senses. When the bread and wine are consecrated, we don't see the bread and wine changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, but we know by faith in Christ's word that it happened. The witnesses of the miracle at the wedding feast in Cana, on the other hand, actually saw with their eyes Jesus change water into wine. The miracle was not a matter of faith to them. In the Eucharist the miracle is both what we see and what we don't see. After the miraculous act of consecration bread and wine still appear to be on the altar, but they are no longer there. The Body and Blood of Christ are present instead. Other miracles we perceive with the eyes of the body, but the Eucharist with the eyes of faith.”

*There is only one person who can return
to God the love that He has given to me.
That person is me.
I will Adore Him!*

Back to Basics

Eucharistic adoration is the act of worshipping God as He is present in the consecrated Eucharist. Pope John Paul II said that, “the Eucharist is a priceless treasure ... and an inexhaustible source of holiness.” Since the Last Supper, when Jesus blessed, then broke the bread and distributed the wine, saying, “This is my Body” and “This is my Blood,” Catholics have believed that the bread and wine are no longer merely baked wheat and fermented grape juice, but *the actual living presence of the Second Person of the Trinity*.

Spending time before the Blessed Sacrament, in prayer and devotion, is exactly the same as spending time before the living God. Adoration occurs whenever someone kneels in front of a tabernacle that contains the Blessed Sacrament, genuflects toward a tabernacle, bows before receiving the Blessed Sacrament at Mass, or in a more focused way, spends time with Jesus when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration.

Get back to the basics. Adore our Lord wherever Adoration is held. He waits for each one of us.

Owen Hilding, Visitation Parish, Elmhurst, IL

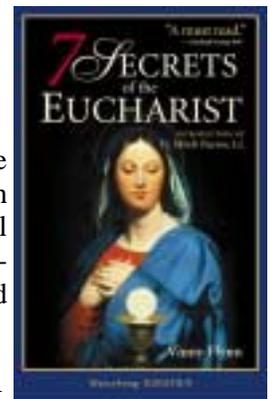
*“ Each morning of life marks a new beginning.
Leave all your dead past to God's mercy and the future to His Providence and loving care. Concentrate now only on doing His Will and work in the world, just as you can, just for today.”*

Alaska Radio Mission

7 Secrets of the Eucharist

by Vinny Flynn, with an introduction by Mitch Pacwa, S.J.

This book will increase your knowledge of the Eucharist regardless of how much or how little you already know. It will draw you closer to Christ through enlightenment and reception of the Blessed Sacrament.



Some of the hidden truths of the Eucharist taught by the Church and Popes are explained in a very meaningful, readable way. This is a good book for a chapel library. Available in soft cover for \$9.95 from Ignatius Press, 1-800-651-1531



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

When Fr Warkulwiz went to South Africa he was on a mission to promote Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration and he succeeded. He found the people most eager to praise the Lord. Sunday Masses were most impressive lasting for two to three hours. Often the parts of the Mass were sung in Latin with an African rhythm. It was very uplifting. Several parishes now have adoration and several more have perpetual adoration.

Here are statements from some of the pastors who started Perpetual Adoration; in South Africa:

“At first, everybody from parishioners to priest friends said it would never work, but I didn’t listen. I kept pushing the idea and eventually things began to snowball. I can’t tell you how excited everyone is over this ...”

Fr. Dominick Cutrone

“Many come to our little Chapel throughout the day and into the middle of the night. It is rewarding to see the participation in an act of Faith of God’s presence in the Holy Eucharist. The peace of mind expressed by our visitors to the Chapel is inspiring.”

Msgr. John Sully

“I think the greatest boast of any pastor would be that his parish is a ‘Eucharistic’ parish... One cannot spend an hour with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and not be affected by it.”

Fr. Robert Haener

Small But Mighty

St. Margaret Parish in San Angelo, Texas has about two hundred registered families. Too small for Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration?



Well, they found a way to make it a reality. They reached out to four other small parishes and the response was overwhelming in favor of adoring Our Lord. Today, three years later, they have one thousand adorers a week. This small parish is an oasis of love and glowing adoration.

Don’t let the excuse, “But we are too small for perpetual adoration,” deter you from being creative and generous for the Lord. Remember, where there is a will there is a way.

*Gracie Rushing, Head Coordinator,
St. Margaret Parish, San Angelo, TX*

We’d like to hear from you. If your parish has had Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration for twenty years or more let us know. Send your story by email to 6132dout@sbcglobal.net

TO MENTION A FEW OF THE 791 PEA SITES WITH ANNIVERSARIES

20 OR MORE YEARS *St. Augustine, Barberton, OH; St. Bridget, Las Vegas, NV; St. Joseph, Maumee, OH;*

10 TO 19 YEARS *St. Linus, Oak Lawn, IL; Visitation, Elmhurst, IL; Assumption Parish, Ashkum, IL*

1 TO 9 YEARS *St. Pius X, Appleton, WI; St. Joseph, Attleboro, MA; Avera St. Luke’s Hospital, Aberdeen SD; St. Benedict, Atchison, KS; Shrine of the True Cross, Dickinson, TX; St. Margaret, San Angelo, TX, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish,, Naperville, IL*

Adoring for Forty-Five Years



The church doors were unlocked all day everyday. The Lord was reserved in the tabernacle. Only a few people would stop in for a brief visit with the Lord and this troubled the pastor. So he gathered a group of his active parishioners and explained his feelings and his idea to draw people to visit the Lord in reservation.

The plan was to send them out two by two to knock on the doors of each and every parishioner and to invite them to come to adoration and to sign them on at a specific hour in the seven day, twenty-four hour plan. Results? It took awhile but over six hundred people signed on, and on All Saints Day in 1962 adoration became the beautiful signature of St. Augustine Parish in Barberton, Ohio.

In 1968 Father Paul J. Clines was assigned pastor and in 1985, after he received the bishop’s approval, he elevated the level of adoration to Perpetual Exposition. He took on his own holy hour from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. daily and kept it for nineteen years. Upon his death, in 2004, a close friend, a parishioner, took over that hour and has maintained it to this day.

About two years ago we were losing adorers through illness, aging, death and relocating, we called upon Father Robert Goedert, of the Real Presence Association, to come and give our parish an adoration incentive talk at all the Masses. He was quite inspiring and more people committed to adoration. Currently, we have three hundred and twenty five adorers and another hundred who visit and sign in weekly.

A small parish just south of us closed recently and we plan to go door to door, two by two to deliver personal invitations to come to adoration. We are ready to act upon it any day now. And we are making plans for a Fiftieth Anniversary in five years.

*Gene Ryan, Head Coordinator, St. Augustine Parish,
Barberton, Ohio*

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