

The Real Presence

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Vol. 3 Eucharistic Education and Adoration

Perpetual Adoration in the United States

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Pope John Paul II is a strong advocate of perpetual Eucharistic adoration. At the 45th International Eucharistic Congress in Seville, Spain the Holy Father expressed his wish for “the establishment of perpetual Eucharistic adoration in all parishes and Christian communities throughout the world.”

That’s a big wish to fulfill. The Real Presence Association has so far counted about 634 sites (mostly chapels) of perpetual adoration in the United States. This may sound like a lot, but *The Official Catholic Directory 2001* records 19,544 parishes in the United States. So we have a long way to go to satisfy the Pope’s wish here. And we probably have many more perpetual adoration sites than any other country.

Perpetual adoration is growing in the United States, but slowly. The priests of the Apostolate for Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration (APEA) over the past three years have visited more than 300 host and support parishes to help start and maintain perpetual adoration. Those efforts resulted in the opening of more than 100 new, mostly perpetual, adoration chapels. In addition, a number of parishes started perpetual adoration without the assistance of APEA.

In an average parish that starts perpetual adoration about 30 people per 100 families sign up to participate. In small parishes the percentage of participation is often much greater. Parishes as small as 300 families have been able to start perpetual adoration.

The spread of adoration strongly depends on the support of bishops and pastors. There are bishops and pastors who are very supportive, others who are totally opposed, and a lot in between. Some pastors have unfounded theological problems with

Eucharistic adoration. Others have legitimate concerns. Some are afraid that their people will not respond. Those who are willing to take a leap of faith are surprised to find out that their parishioners respond very well to the appeal to start perpetual adoration and that starting and maintaining perpetual adoration is not as difficult as they thought it would be. Some think that it will mean more responsibility placed on their shoulders. But perpetual adoration is lay organized and lay run. Usually all that the pastor has to do is to give the necessary permissions. Others are concerned about security. There are a variety of security measures that can be taken, and perpetual adoration has an excellent safety record.



Pastors marvel at the blessings that come to their parishes through perpetual adoration. Their parishes experience spiritual revivals and become powerhouses of prayer. Vocations are nurtured in their perpetual adoration chapels. Pastors are delighted to see adorers of all ages in prayer before our Eucharistic Lord.

Credit for the success of perpetual adoration in a parish goes not only to the pastor for his inspiration and encouragement but also to the lay leaders for their labors of love and to the adorers for their loyalty to the commitment they made to spend a specific hour each week with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

One of the good effects of the terrible events of September 11 is that they brought Americans together in prayer. The Lord wants us to recognize that the problems in the world are beyond any merely human means of solution. He wants us to go to Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Pope John Paul II said: “Through adoration, the Christian mysteriously contributes to the radical transformation of the world and to the sowing of the Gospel.” By their holy hours of prayer, adorers throughout the United States are preparing the way for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Eucharistic Reign of Christ.



The Chapel of Charity

St Vincent de Paul Church in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, celebrated the third anniversary of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration on the feast of the Assumption, August 15, 2001.

Four years ago we were new parishioners and what we missed most was the privilege of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration which we treasured in our old parish. It became my daily prayer that someone in the parish would start exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Specifically, I envisioned someone with a lot of free time who knew most of the parishioners, and was organized enough to run an adoration chapel.

Six months later God answered my prayers. He sent a mother of three children with the fourth on the way. She had no spare time, obviously. She was organized enough to function as a wife and mother, and she, basically, was a stranger in the parish. Just another piece of clay, that's what I was. I said, "Yes". Our Lord knew I really missed that special time of adoration. Now, I could have what I wanted and what Our Lord wanted too, but there was work to be accomplished. We did it.

Our pastor, Father Jack Long, and thirty-three coordinators represent the frame-work that brings three hundred sixty-two adorers to Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration every week in "The Chapel of Charity". We are so very blessed.

I have learned that when you say "Yes" to Our Lord's call to trust in Him, He proceeds to do things through us, even impossible things.

Praised be Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior,
Jean McGinty
Head Coordinator: Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration
St. Vincent de Paul Church
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

"The Divine King is ever ready to grant us an audience and to admit our souls to the intimacy of his love."
St. Peter Julian Eymard

Testimonies for Favors Granted

St. Linus parish Oak Lawn, Illinois
Jesus, Light of the World PEA Chapel

In churches and chapels throughout our country we pray daily. During hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament we petition God for many of the same things and we are certain that no prayer goes unanswered.

We thank you, Lord, for:

Tom's successful surgery.
the wonderful eighty five years with Uncle Charlie,
reconciliation between my daughter and son,
the birth of a healthy granddaughter,
getting home safely,
resolving my insurance problems favorably,
cancer remission,
a good report from the doctors,
letting me survive another day,
allowing my mother not to suffer long with cancer,
my son passing his tests,
special intentions that You always answer for me,
Tim's new job,
my husband's successful operation,
my home and a loving family,
sending good, prayerful people into my life,
having this one hour a week with You, I treasure it.

When we enter a petition in the book during our time of adoration, all the prayers said throughout the day and night ascend as pleading hearts to our merciful Lord who sends His blessings to those who turn to Him.

Books for the Chapel

Praying in the Presence of Our Lord for the Holy Souls - by Susan Tassone: series editor Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.

Praying in the Presence of Our Lord
- by Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.

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