



THE SPIRIT OF ADORATION

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The mission of this newsletter is to inspire people to spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. According to St. Alphonsus de Liguori, Doctor of the Church, "After that of receiving the sacraments, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament holds the first place, is the most pleasing to God, and the most useful to ourselves."

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The Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano

In the 700's in the town of Lanciano, southeast of Rome, the monks of St. Basil had established a monastery under the patronage of St. Longinus, traditionally believed to be the soldier at the crucifixion who pierced the side of Our Lord with a lance (Jn 19:34) and proclaimed, "Truly, this was the Son of God" (Mt 27:54).

One day, a certain monk in that monastery, described in ancient records as "...versed in the sciences of the world but ignorant in that of God," was offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Apparently plagued by doubts, he questioned whether the bread and wine changed substantially into the Body and Blood of Our Lord at the words of Consecration. This day, when the monk pronounced the words of Consecration, the host was miraculously changed into Flesh and the wine into Blood. The monk was awestruck. He said: "O fortunate witnesses to whom the Blessed God, to confound my disbelief, has wished to reveal Himself in this Most Blessed Sacrament and to render Himself visible to our eyes. Come, brethren, and marvel at our God so close to us. Behold the Flesh and Blood of our most beloved Christ." Those who witnessed the miracle soon spread the news throughout the surrounding area.

The Blood in the chalice soon coagulated into five globules of different sizes and shapes, but the Flesh remained the same. The archbishop ordered an investigation, and sent for a scale to weigh the globules. *The five globules contained in the reliquary, when weighed either separately or together, totaled the same weight! This confirms what the Catholic Church teaches: that Jesus Christ is really and totally present in either the whole consecrated Host or a fragment of it, and the same applies for the Precious Blood!*

Church authorities certified the miracle although the original document was lost in the 16th century. Since the first basic investigation, the Church has permitted through the years other studies on the relics. In 1574, Msgr. Rodrigues once again weighed the five globules in the presence of witnesses and arrived at the same conclusion.



In 1970-71, Pope Paul VI permitted a series of scientific studies on the precious relics to verify their nature. Dr. Odoardo Linoli, professor of anatomy and pathological histology, chemistry and clinical microscopy, and head physician of the hospital of Arezzo, conducted the study.

The major findings from this research include the following: The Flesh was determined to be muscular tissue from the human heart. The Blood was also of human origin with the type AB, the blood type called the "universal receiver." Proteins in the clotted Blood were normally fractionated with the same percentage ratio as those found in the sero-proteic make-up of normal, fresh human blood. The Blood contained these minerals: chlorides, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and calcium.

Professor Linoli asserted that the Blood, if taken from a cadaver, would have deteriorated rapidly. Given that these samples were centuries old, free of preservatives, and never hermetically sealed

in the reliquaries, they should have deteriorated. However, he underscored that the samples had the same properties as fresh human blood and flesh.

In 1973, the chief Advisory Board of the World Health Organization appointed a scientific commission to corroborate Linoli's findings. Their work lasted 15 months and included 500 tests. It was verified that the fragments taken from Lanciano could in no way be likened to embalmed tissue. As to the nature of the fragment of Flesh, the commission declared it to be living tissue because it responded rapidly to all the clinical reactions distinctive of living beings.

"I am the Bread of Life. He who feeds on My Flesh and drinks My Blood has life eternal and I will raise him up on the last day. For My Flesh is real food and My Blood real drink. The man who feeds on My Flesh and drinks My Blood remains in Me, and I in him" (Jn 6:35, 54-56).

The Sacred Host and the globules of Precious Blood can be viewed at the Church, now named for St. Francis, in Lanciano, Italy.

Source: www.therealpresence.org

St. John Neumann and Forty Hours Devotion

By June Klins

After a friend sent me a first class relic of St. John Neumann, I yearned to learn more about him, and was led to a very interesting book in my parish library, *The Little Bishop, Episodes in the Life of St. John Neumann* by Brother Paschal Turbet, C.S.S.R. One of the episodes in the book, titled "The Forty Hours," tells how Bishop Neumann was instrumental in the promotion of this devotion in the United States.

Growing up in Bavaria, John Neumann used to attend the Forty Hours devotion, where the crowds would come throughout the day to visit Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament. It was a glorious thing! After he was named bishop of Philadelphia, this is what he desired for his diocese. He was saddened at how few people took the time to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and saw Forty Hours as the antidote.

As head of the diocese of Philadelphia, Bishop Neumann could use his authority to issue orders to establish Forty Hours, but that was not his way. He decided instead to consult with some of the priests of the diocese. These priests applauded the idea, but also had reservations. One priest said, "The people are not yet ready. As it is, we are struggling to keep the faith alive." Another said, "I admire your zeal, Your Excellency, and would be all in favor of it except for the fact that bigotry is still a power to be feared...Now if Forty Hours were to be introduced, what is to prevent such men from entering our churches and doing sacrilege against the Blessed Sacrament?" Another priest added, "We must not forget that less than ten years ago, two of our Philadelphia churches were burned to the ground by these same men." A fourth priest said, "Bishop, I know that your motive is the highest and I admire you for that. But we should remember that no other bishop in the United States has come forward with such a plan." Bishop Neumann thanked the priests for their input and frankness. It seemed to be a dead issue.



For weeks afterwards the thought of Forty Hours refused to leave Bishop Neumann, however. But whenever he would think of it, the notion of the Blessed Sacrament being desecrated would haunt him. No, he could not risk it.

One night Bishop Neumann was working into the wee hours of the night by candlelight. As the light grew dimmer, he drew the candlestick near and saw that the flame had burned down into the socket. From its flame he lit another candle stub, but since he was half asleep, he set it on the back of his desk instead of into the socket. Then he fell asleep.

Soon he woke up to a smoke-filled room. The letters he was working on were burned and charred - but only around the edges. The writing was still intact. He dropped to his knees and thanked God that the whole room did not go up in flames. It was then that he heard an interior voice say, "*Just as the writing was not consumed by the flames, so My Presence on the altar shall not be desecrated. So hesitate no longer to carry out your plan for My Great Glory.*"

In April of 1853 when the priests were all assembled at his first diocesan synod, Bishop Neumann again presented his plan for Forty Hours Devotion. He made no mention of the voice, but his words, from the heart, were so filled with conviction that his motion passed by a surprising majority.

The opening Mass for Forty Hours Devotion in Philadelphia was fittingly on the feast of Corpus Christi. From there it progressed through the whole diocese, drawing crowds everywhere. Gradually other dioceses followed until Forty Hours Devotion was spread throughout the country.

Editor's note: The relic of St. John Neumann which inspired this article, and this whole newsletter, came in the mail on the Thursday after Pentecost, the traditional feast of Corpus Christi (The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ)!

Forty Hours Devotion

By June Klins

One of the fondest memories of my grade school years was going to 40 Hours Devotion. The Eucharistic procession, the genuflection on two knees, the smell of the incense, the Latin hymns, the chanting of the Litany of the Saints, and the silence - it all invoked an "other worldliness." It was holy, it was sacred, it was set apart. I felt like I was in Heaven.

But then it stopped. I don't remember when or why. I didn't hear anything about Forty Hours or Eucharistic Adoration for over thirty years. Then one day when I arrived early for a funeral at a neighboring church, I discovered that they had Eucharistic Adoration every Friday in their chapel. I felt like I had stumbled upon a hidden treasure. From that day on, I looked forward to Fridays when I could have that "sneak peek" of Heaven in the chapel.

Most young people today have no idea about Eucharistic Adoration. I would not either, had the seed not been planted in my youth at the Forty Hours Devotion. What happened after Vatican II was that many devotions, such as Forty Hours, praying the Rosary, Novenas, etc., were eliminated because some misguided people thought that these devotions took away from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. But just the contrary is true. I know in my own life that when I began to pray the daily Rosary again, it led me to daily Mass. All of these devotions bring us closer to Jesus and the closest we can get to Him is in the Mass where we can receive Him, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, into our own bodies. It doesn't get any better than that!

So what is Forty Hours devotion? In the first issue of

“The Spirit of Adoration” Fr. Richard Poblocki of Buffalo answered that question: “Forty Hours Devotion is the adoration and praise of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament over 40 semi-continuous hours. The number ‘40’ is derived from the number of hours Christ lay in the tomb.” During this devotion, the Eucharist is exposed in solemn adoration for a period of 40 hours, with parishioners attending in shifts so someone is always in the church. Forty Hours also can include Benediction and other traditional celebrations, including Mass (thus the word “semi-continuous”).

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the exact origin of the Forty Hours Devotion is not completely known. The first evidence of its celebration came from Milan in 1527. It was originally celebrated in reparation for the sins of the community, but was also motivated to offer prayers to God for protection in times of war. The practice of celebrating Forty Hours Devotion spread rapidly from this point. In Rome, this period of forty hours of Solemn Exposition of the Eucharist was scheduled so that the Forty Hours Devotion in each church formed a continuous time of adoration from church to church.

There are a number of churches and dioceses that have brought back the Forty Hours Devotion. The Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA is one of them. For the Year of St. Paul, the parishes throughout the diocese had a continuous time of Adoration from church to church, so that there was Eucharistic Adoration in that diocese perpetually the whole year. They hope to continue this practice for the Year of the Priest. When I searched on the Internet for churches who were having Forty Hours Devotion in 2009 I was thrilled to find that churches in West Virginia, Florida, Indiana, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and throughout the country were bringing it back!

If your parish or diocese does not have Adoration or Forty Hours devotion, this would be a good time to suggest it. We need Jesus more these days than ever before. And Forty Hours devotion can help plant the seeds for daily Mass and eventually Perpetual Adoration, and the fruits which come as a result.

St. John Neumann, please pray for the resurgence of Forty Hours devotion throughout the world!

MONSTERS IN THE PLAYGROUND

By St. John Bosco

[On February 24, 1865, he addressed them:]

My dear boys, I have been away for a few days, though it is my deepest desire to be constantly with you in order to help you all I can. . . .

I went to Cuneo and stayed a few days with the bishop, who treated me royally. The first night...I went to bed toward eleven and fell asleep immediately. As usual, I began to dream, and since the tongue always turns to the aching tooth, as the saying goes, I dreamed that I was at the Oratory with my beloved boys. I seemed to be seated at my desk while you were having a world of fun playing, shouting, and running about. I was very pleased with all the noise, because I know that when you are playing, the devil has no chance to harm you, no matter how hard he tries.

I was rejoicing at this hubbub when suddenly all noise ceased and a deadly silence fell upon the playground. In alarm I stood up to find out what had happened.

As I crossed into the waiting room, a horrid monster burst in from the outer door. Seemingly unaware of my presence, head and eyes lowered to the ground, the monster advanced straight forward like a beast about to spring on its victim. Trembling for your safety, I looked down from the window to see if anything had happened to you. The whole playground was full of monsters like the one in my waiting room, though smaller. You, my boys, had been forced back against the walls and porticoes, but many of you were lying



on the ground, seemingly dead. This piteous sight so frightened me that I awoke screaming. I woke everybody else up too, from the bishop to the last servant.

My dear boys, generally speaking we must pay no attention to dreams, but when they teach us a moral lesson, we may give them thought. I have always tried to learn why certain things happen, and I'll do so also as regards this dream. That monster may well be the devil, who is ever trying to ruin us. Some boys fell victims to him, while others went unscathed. Shall I show you how not to fear him and successfully withstand him?

Listen: there are two things the devil is deadly afraid of: fervent Communion and frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Do you want Our Lord to grant you many graces?

Visit Him often. Do you want Him to grant you only a few? Visit Him but seldom. Do you want the devil to attack you? Rarely visit the Blessed Sacrament. Do you want the devil to flee from you? Visit Jesus often. Do you want to overcome the devil? Take refuge at Jesus' feet. Do you want to be overcome by the devil? Give up visiting Jesus.

Visiting the Blessed Sacrament, my dear boys, is essential if you want to overcome the devil. Therefore, make frequent visits to Jesus. If you do that, the devil will never prevail against you.

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Teaching Children about Eucharistic Adoration

By Dawn Curazzato

Several years ago a program was started at my parish where we began introducing the young children to Eucharistic Adoration, especially those making their First Communion. We would tell them we are taking them to a very special place where Jesus is truly present, a place where they can come any time, day or night. We tell them someday they may need someone to talk to and their parents may be unavailable, due to work or another commitment, but Jesus is ALWAYS available and they can come to the chapel to talk with Him and be safe.



One little boy asked, "What does be safe mean?" and before I could answer, his classmate said, "There are no Terrorists in there!" My first reaction was to laugh, but I realized how astute these kids are even at such a young age.

As we walk down the hall I ask them if they have anyone or anything they would like to pray for and they respond with, "Yes, for my grandmother who has cancer," "For my aunt & uncle who just died," "For an end to war," "For those who died in natural disasters," and on it goes, but they are all beautiful things to pray for. Some of the things they say are so sweet and innocent it brings me to tears. They are anxious to learn! They seem to understand the importance of prayer, and they so badly want to help out at home and in the world. We tell them praying in Adoration is a great way to do that! We do not want our children to ever feel a situation is hopeless---fear is born of hopelessness and we know all things are possible unto God! We have to "Learn" our faith, so we will "Love" our faith and then we can "Live" our faith.

The Eucharist is a stumbling block for many, yet it is the source and summit of our faith. It is what makes us different from all other faiths. It is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, which every child receives when they make their Communion. We teach the children to always bow when entering and leaving the Adoration Chapel to show respect for Jesus. Some ask why they can't see Jesus and we tell them He is there, but it calls for faith. We tell them they can't see the wind either but they know it is there! St. Augustine said, "Faith is believing in what we cannot see, and the reward of Faith is seeing what we believe!"

We encourage the children to visit the Chapel, perhaps coming a few minutes early before Mass on Sunday, or stop after Mass while the parking lot is clearing out. There is also a Family Hour on Sundays from 4-5 PM, but they are welcome any time. We tell the children the body needs food and water to live, and our souls need the Eucharist to live. We tell them Adoration is like a vitamin for the soul! Time spent with Jesus is the best part of any day, and we will find it easier getting through difficult moments by doing this! Sometimes someone may say to me that Eucharistic Adoration isn't their

"thing" and I immediately know they have no conception of what Eucharistic Adoration is. It is NOT a "something" it is a "Someone!" It is Jesus and He IS for everyone. The Holy Hour is NOT a devotion; it is a sharing in the work of redemption and that is an awesome revelation.

When someone asks me what happens in there I like to use a quote from a movie, "As Good As It Gets." There is a scene where Jack Nicholson looks at Helen Hunt across the table and says, "You make me want to be a better man," and that is what happens

when we go to Adoration. We become better people, then our families become better, our Church becomes better, our country becomes better and eventually the world becomes a better place! Yes, it is true, in this very simple manner we can change our lives and the world. The answer to the vocation crisis will *not* come from priests being allowed to marry, or women becoming priests, it will come from the fervent prayers being said in Eucharistic Adoration!

When Jesus gave His teaching in John 6 that His Body was true food and His Blood was true drink, many of His disciples said "This teaching is too hard, who can accept it?" and they went back to their former way of life. Jesus turned to the twelve and said, "Do you also wish to leave?" and Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe you are the Christ!" I believe those are the first words spoken by a Catholic!! Only by the hands of a priest are bread & wine consecrated and changed to the Body and Blood of Christ!

Because as many as 60-70 percent of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence or have a poor understanding of it, we also share stories of Eucharistic Miracles and Eucharistic saints. The Eucharistic Miracles from Rome are traveling around the world. Much of the scientific proof was gathered by scientists who were atheists, which makes the information all the more interesting and faith affirming. Still, these are just "Tools of the Faith" or "Spiritual Fertilizer" as I like to call it. From time to time we have been given these "gifts" so that we might believe. Perhaps Jesus knew St. Thomas would have many descendants! There was a man in the Bible who said "Lord I believe, help me in my unbelief!"

One morning when I left the Adoration Chapel with a small group of children a little boy asked, "What was that Trophy in there?" Yes, indeed, Jesus is our "Trophy" and everyone who sits before Him is a winner as we receive the gifts and graces He has for each one of us! Praise be to Jesus Christ now and forever.

*Editor's note: Dawn lives in Williamsville, NY and is a member of St. Gregory the Great Church. She is the author of **Memoirs of a Miracle** and is working on a second book.*

I Had a Dream

By Deanette Pease

One night I had a funny dream. I was in a sort of martial arts class where the instructor told me to do a somersault. I said, "I cannot do a somersault any longer." The instructor told me then, "Go over and see the Master." I went over to see the Master instructor. He put his forehead up against my forehead for a minute and then backed away. He looked at me and said, "Mary wants to know why you are not going to Adoration." I said, "What??" He then repeated, "Mary wants to know why you are not going to Adoration."

I began to cry (sobbing actually). I woke up and my face was wet from tears, for I have been neglecting Adoration in the last 6 months. My daughter's wedding plans, too busy, too tired, etc. etc. etc., one excuse after another.

Well, now after this dream I got the message loud and clear from Our Mother - I'm running to Adoration every week now. And I would be interested in passing out those newsletters to promote Adoration.

Editor's note: Deanette is from Feeding Hills, MA.

Guardians of the Eucharist

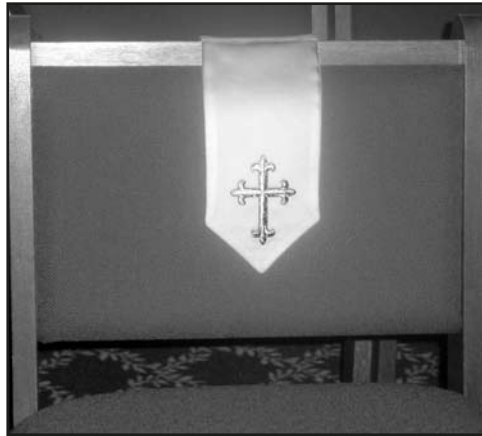
By June Klins

One day a number of years ago I stopped for a visit in one of our neighboring churches that has Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on First Fridays. I was surprised when I walked in to find Jesus all alone with no adorers. Our pastor had told us that Jesus should never be left alone when exposed in the Monstrance.

Although I relished my time alone with Jesus, I knew I had to leave because I had made a prior commitment and people would be worried if I did not show up. As time went on and no one showed up, I prayed and prayed for Jesus to send someone. I didn't know what to do. Finally, I left Jesus alone for about a minute and ran to my car to get my cell phone. I called a friend who lived nearby and asked her if she would be able to replace me, and she said she could.

A few days later my friend told me that soon after I left the chapel, another lady came. The lady told her that something strange had come over her as she was relaxing at home reading the newspaper. She said that all of a sudden a very strong prompting came over her that she was supposed to go to the Adoration chapel, and so she did. My prayers had been answered!

About a year or so later my own parish began to have Perpetual Adoration. It was a very big undertaking at first to schedule all the people, especially since Father wanted two people per hour, to prevent the scenario I described above.



Although we have never had every hour covered with two people, the system we set up has worked pretty well now for over 5 years. To my knowledge Jesus has never been left alone.

It took some trial and error, but within a few months we came up with a good system that works. The committed adorers for the hour each have a little white stole with a gold cross that they place near their seats to indicate that they are committed for that hour. When the committed adorers for the next hour come in, they take the stoles from

the adorers in the hour before. The committed adorers are instructed not to leave until someone has taken the stole of at least one of the committed adorers. Who knows if a visitor who comes in plans to stay for the full hour and Jesus could be left alone, so the committed adorer must wait till another committed adorer or substitute comes. The substitutes are instructed to take the stole and to remain until someone takes it from them.

I have shared this idea with a number of people around the country because it works well not only for Perpetual Adoration, but also any time the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for a length of time for private Adoration. One woman told me her church loved the idea and one of the parishioners made some beautiful stoles and embroidered on them the words "Guardian of the Eucharist." I feel so honored to be one of the Guardians of the Eucharist.

More Than a Pen Pal

By Fr. Evaristus Ogbuagu

Are you still limping between your options: going into the chapel and adoring Jesus, real in the Blessed Eucharist, or rather going shopping or running errands when that desire comes to you? Emulate Joshua and his household who decided to follow and worship the Lord. Believe me, Perpetual Adoration will turn things around FOR BETTER in your life, for you and your family. THIS ISN'T JUST A "RELIGIOUS AD," but the TRUTH and nothing but the Truth! Give it a trial!

Remember that the best way to communicate with a friend is through conversation, especially a live one. Jesus is our friend, and, if we want to communicate properly, we've got to be with Him. I mean, pay Him visits as we do our best friends. May our relationship with Jesus not be a "pen pal," or an "on-line" one, but a LIVELY, INVOLVING, GRACIOUS and PERSONAL one.

Editor's note: Fr. Evaristus is from Nigeria.

He Listens

By Doug Konzel

Just like most everyone over 40 who went to Catholic grade school, my first encounter with Eucharistic Adoration was when we used to go to Benediction. I went to St. John and back then it seemed that we were going to Benediction at least once a week. I had a pretty good understanding of what Eucharistic Adoration was about, even at 7 or 8 years old, and I liked going. But of course at that age, I didn't have the understanding I have now as an adult, but I don't think I can recall ever having a negative reaction to going to Adoration. I did like going and quite frankly I enjoyed the quiet.



As a teen I went to public high school and the chances of my going to Adoration or Benediction became slim to none...I had not stayed active in my church community. Most of my time spent in Eucharistic Adoration was due to the structure of being in a Catholic school. At St. John, going to Eucharistic Adoration seemed like a part of our religion class. But in high school, I didn't have religion class and wasn't made to go to CCD. Girls, cars, friends, hobbies, and a million other things now occupied my life. Everything else was more important than God...it's an easy thing to let happen. I fit God into my life on Sundays and holydays. When I got out of high school I became a little more active member of my parish...you know, pastoral council, choir, and sacristan. That's the type of relationship I thought God wanted - just hanging around church a couple of times a week and being a good person will get me to Heaven.....but I was wrong.

It's been 4 years now since I got the phone call... I got home from a normal day at work, picked up the mail, and was feeding the dogs when the phone rang. It was my oldest son Jason calling me from Ohio in a panic. He and a couple of his friends had been arrested for making methamphetamine. That day in April of 2005 my world fell apart. Week after week I would go see him in jail, where he would lie to me and scream at me, and call me every disgusting name that a parent never wants to hear out of their dear child's mouth.

I was at every hearing; sitting there with my broken heart in my hands trying to show it to the police, trying to show it to the judge...trying to get someone, anyone, to understand that this was **my** beloved son, the boy I helped raise, the boy I played baseball with. But no one would look at my broken heart or listen to me. Week after week I would come home

feeling empty and at the end of my rope.

Every week after my visit with my son, I would stop into the Bread of Life Chapel to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Finally one week I could not control myself any longer and I began to sob uncontrollably. That half hour of uncontrolled weeping, bearing my broken heart to the Lord and allowing Him to take my broken heart, was the beginning of a new relationship with Him. That night in the chapel, in front of the Blessed Sacrament was absolutely a life changing event for my relationship with Jesus and my relationship with my son.

I no longer fit Jesus into my life; I build my life around Him by praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament at least once a week for an hour and making occasional daily visits. I thank Him every day for everything He's done for me and for Jason and I pray for Jason and my other children and so many others...most of them I know, but many I don't know. I pray for people I love and I pray for people who I don't get along with. I pray for everyone when I'm in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

I talk to Jason a couple of times a week. He's back in Pennsylvania now with his daughters. The drug rehab program in Ohio helped to work a couple of miracles, not the least of which was reminding him about the Lord. We talk about God and Jesus, and I make sure he knows how I and many other people I've come to know and love, pray for him during Eucharistic Adoration. We both attribute spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with his being on the straight and narrow for these past 4 years. I have no doubt, that my time spent adoring Jesus in the Eucharist has brought my son to a closer relationship with me and more importantly, with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We know we still have a long road ahead... we have the rest of our lives, and we know where our priorities need to be focused. Eucharistic Adoration has helped by being a large part of that focus.

So now I have to ask you....are you talking to people and no one seems to be listening to you? Is there some situation in your life that no one understands? Are you fitting Jesus into your life instead of building your life around Him? Become a committed adorer...Jesus listens. Jesus understands. Jesus wants to help you.

Editor's note: Doug is from Erie, PA and is now in the program to become a Permanent Deacon.

He's Alive !

By Marge Lee

Back in 1997, I was in Tampa, FL, when one day I was feeling very sad and crying. I decided to attend the Saturday evening vigil Mass and I went early so that I could be alone in church. As I was praying and crying while looking at the golden Tabernacle, suddenly a laser beam came out of it very slowly. I kept my eyes on it as it came towards me, and when it entered my body I felt for a few seconds that I could move a mountain. Then I was no longer sad. How ALIVE Jesus is in that Tabernacle!!!

Editor's note: Marge is from North Port, FL.

The Greatest Gift to My Parish

By Fr. Neil Buchlein

I would say the greatest gift that I have given to my parish in the last year and a half is that of Perpetual Adoration. The response has been wonderful and our program "runs like clockwork". . . and not because of me, but of how it is structured. Our parish is a little less than 400 families and we have all hours and days filled round the clock. Last year I heard the Lord say to me that He wanted me to spend one hour a day in Adoration. I said, "I did, Lord, when I was in seminary and my schedule was so predictable and set. Now, it is always fluctuating and it is difficult." The Lord said that He needed this so that He could bless me with even stronger gifts. Oh, there are times when I can find myself saying, "I still have to do Adoration, and look at the time." It is in those times that when I get there, I find myself in another world, a

world of peace and joy where nothing else matters. The next thing I know, the hour has passed and time to go.

It was mentioned in another newsletter that it would be nice to send a card of encouragement to one's priest I would say this, whether you have Adoration or not, spend one hour in front of the tabernacle, pray one Rosary and then give your priest a card saying that you made a Holy Hour for him and a Rosary for his intentions. And, do this whether you really think he is the holiest and greatest priest you ever met or not. Remember, if there are no priests, there can be no Eucharist. No Eucharist, No Jesus. We certainly need Our Jesus more than ever as we watch our world search for answers that it cannot find since it wishes to ignore Him.

Editor's note: Fr. Neil is from Hurricane, WV.

Further Resources

Books:

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Come to Me in the Blessed Sacrament – Fr. Vincent Martin Lucia

Eucharistic Retreats – St. Peter Julian Emyard

Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love - Fr. Stefano Manelli, O.F.M.Conv., S.T.D.

In the Presence of Our Lord – Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., and James Monti

Moments Divine Before the Blessed Sacrament – Fr. Frederick A. Reuter, K.C.B.S

Secrets of the Eucharist – Michael H. Brown

The Holy Eucharist – St. Alphonsus de Liguori

DVD's

Come to Me – An Invitation to Eucharistic Adoration (Call 504-482-8010)

The Eucharist in Communion with Me (Email transmedia@tmgroup.com.au)



Websites:

 www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbg_dhI4XCc (Incredible video on You Tube of Eucharistic Miracle)

www.acfp2000.com (Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament)

www.pjp2ea.org/pjp2ea/WhatisEA.asp (Pope John Paul II Eucharistic Adoration Association)

www.childrenofhope.org (Adoration for children)

www.therealpresence.org (Real Presence Eucharistic and Education Adoration Association)

www.savior.org/devotions.htm (Online Adoration for the homebound, those without Adoration chapels, etc.)

www.holyfamilypress.com/ActivityBooksPages/MHE.html (Activity book for children on Eucharistic miracles)

Angel's Prayer At Fatima

"Most Holy Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart Of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners."

"The best, the surest and most effective way of establishing everlasting peace on the face of the earth is through the power of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament."

~ Pope John Paul II

The Spirit of Adoration
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<http://spiritofadoration.home.comcast.net/~spiritofadoration/>

To locate the nearest church or chapel with Eucharistic Adoration, go to
www.therealpresence.org/chap_fr.htm

“May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!” ~ Psalm 67:4

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