

Adoremus Jesum

Volume 6

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Dear Fellow Adorers:

I would like to tell you in this article some of my experiences concerning Eucharistic Adoration. I am still trying to figure out how I got involved with adoration, but then God does work in strange ways. My involvement with adoration started in 1995 and is still going today for which I will be ever grateful.

Many events have taken place over the years, some good, some not so good but through it all Jesus has lifted me up in both good and bad. He has become my strength when life gets rough and my joy when life goes well. In June of 2002 my granddaughter was involved in a serious swimming accident which has left her paralyzed from the chest on down. She is only 15 years of age but an inspiration to our entire family. As a result of the accident her spinal cord was crushed. She had to have surgery just to stabilize her neck. Through it all God can be felt in His goodness.

He has done so many things for all of us and our family is stronger because of Him. This is but one reason Eucharistic Adoration is so important to me. When I spend my hour with Him, it is as if He says, "Don't worry, Kate will be just fine." I am at the point where I no longer can picture what life would be like without adoration. There are so many other instances I could tell you about how God has entered my life through Eucharistic Adoration so if you don't mind, I will write again in the future so I can keep expressing my gratitude to Our Lord for adoration. God Bless.

Mike Mortimer, The Real Presence Association

"Do you want Our Lord to give you many graces? Visit Him often. Do you want Him to give you few graces? Visit Him seldom. Visits to the Blessed Sacrament are powerful and indispensable means of overcoming the attacks of the devil. Make frequent visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the devil will be powerless against you."

St. John Bosco



"It is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His breast like the Beloved

Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in His heart. If in our time Christians must be distinguished above all by the *art of prayer*, (48) how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual converse, silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament? How often, dear brothers and sisters, have I experienced this, and drawn from it strength, consolation and support! (25)."

Pope John Paul II *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*

PRAYER

"The voluntary response to
the awareness of God's presence. This response may be an acknowledgement of God's greatness and of a person's total dependence on him (adoration), or gratitude



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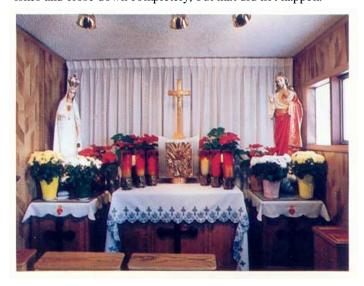
for his benefits to oneself and others (thanksgiving), or sorrow for sins committed and begging for mercy (expiation), or asking for graces needed (petition), or affection for God, who is all good (love)."

Pocket Catholic Dictionary by John A. Hardon, S.J. An Image Book Published by Doubleday, Copyright 1980, 1985 by John A. Hardon

Parish Praise and Glory to God

Parish: St. Bridget Location: Las Vegas, Nevada Chapel: Our Heavenly Father

St. Bridget Church is located in one of the poorest areas of what is called downtown Las Vegas. The rumor was that it would eventually go the way of many other small, poor parishes and close down completely, but that did not happen.



When the new pastor, Father James Swenson, was assigned, the first thing he did was consecrate the church and parish to The Sacred Heart of Jesus and The Immaculate Heart of Mary. Then the praying for guidance began. The rosary was, and still is, recited four times a day by the pastor, his parishioners and visitors.

Even though this was a small parish, Father Swenson wanted his parishioners to have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, and in a short time a priest speaker from the Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament came to talk to the people of St. Bridget and the surrounding parishes. The call to adoration was very successful. The chapel was dedicated in 1985, and adoration began. That was eighteen years ago. When the numbers of adorers and interest started to decline about eight years ago, Father Robert Goedert, was invited to speak at the weekend Masses. His Eucharistic sermon stirred the people, increased the number of adorers and blessed the resolve of the faithful.

The chapel is small, peaceful and inviting. The door is never locked so no one is ever turned away from a visit with Jesus. The hours from midnight to six a.m. are secured by committed adorers some who stay for two and others for three hours.

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They have never failed to have someone with the Lord every moment of the twenty-four hours, seven days a week. And from this rich spring of devotion many blessings have flowed:

- <u>Vocations</u>: a Carmelite Cloistered nun, a Benedictine Monk, an Augustinian Monk and an active Lay Carmelite Group.
- Conversions: entire families have returned to the faith.
- Grateful responses: hundreds of visitors from many denominations one of whom is an Islamic man who has been a steady adorer for several years.
- <u>Devotions</u>: The Two Hearts Prayer Group and The Eight Days of Prayer to God Our Father (the last Sunday in July to the first Sunday in August).
- <u>Donations</u>: there are many. Recently an adorer left a gift of one million dollars to Father Swenson to build a new church for the poor, (soon to be constructed).
- <u>Prayers Answered</u>: of every nature, but Father Swenson's prayer
 of many years for a new St. Bridget church and mission center
 for the poor was answered. The site, the property, the money are
 all a reality. St. Bridget church will not close down, but thrive.

Father Swensen can relate to St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, and he has a message for his brother priests who are reluctant to attempt Eucharistic adoration outside of the Mass. When people from the surrounding countryside parishes flocked to Father Vianney's services that were daily and long, the other pastors complained to him. He told them to make a Holy Hour every week and their people would return. The people did return to those who made the Holy Hour. Father Swenson understands the fears that many pastors have about having adoration outside of the Mass. To them he repeats the advice of the Curé of Ars, "Have a Holy Hour every week. Start praying. Pray for guidance and trust in God."





"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." *Luke 11:9*

Thank you, Lord, for:

- Remission from cancer.
- Rebuilding our damaged church.
- Lessons learned from long suffering.
- Courage to carry on alone, but with you.
- Finally released from debt.