

The Real Presence

Eucharistic Education and Adoration

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Volume 2

A Eucharistic Retreat

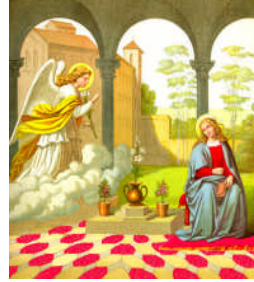
By Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

[Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from Fr. Hardon's Meditation #25]

No retreat on the Holy Eucharist would be complete without at least one meditation on the Blessed Virgin Mary. We know adoration is due to God alone because He alone is worthy of veneration as the source and destiny of our being. We have also seen that since God became man in the Person of Jesus Christ, our adoration of Jesus is really the adoration of God in human form. Since Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is here on earth in the fullness of His Divinity united with the humanity He received from Mary, we are to adore Him in the Holy Eucharist. This is the highest form of worship we can render God and the most powerful source of grace we have on earth in our journey to a heavenly eternity. On all these counts, the Blessed Virgin is our model of what adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament should be. In this meditation, we'll cover... Mary, the origin of the Holy Eucharist.

When the Angel Gabriel appeared to Our Lady and invited her to become "the mother of the Most High," she accepted the invitation, and as a result, she gave us the Holy Eucharist. Except for Mary, there would be no Eucharist. Why not? Because the Eucharist is the Incarnate Son of God now on earth in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

We are saying much more than our words might seem to imply. To say Mary is the origin of the Eucharist is to say that she, by the voluntary acceptance of her divine maternity, was (past tense) the origin of the Incarnation. And since the Eucharist is the Incarnation continued on earth today, Mary is (present tense) the origin of the Holy Eucharist. This tells us volumes on the power of Mary's free will. We are so aware of the devastation man's free will can perpetrate: nations destroyed, millions of babies killed in abortion, etc. We can be so overwhelmed by the awful power of the human will to perpetrate evil that we need Our Lady to see how much that same human free will can achieve or accomplish when the human will submits itself to the divine will. The greatest



"Hail Mary
full of grace,
the Lord is
with you!"

(Luke 1:28)

power in God is His free will. The greatest power in man is his free will. This is power to do evil and power to do good. Mary's voluntary acceptance of God's will made the Incarnation and thus, the Holy Eucharist, possible. The Real Presence is a reality because Mary used free will. She chose to do what was more pleasing to God.

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Holy Hour Helps and Hints

The famous British author and preacher, Msgr. Ronald Knox, once delivered a sermon entitled "The Window in the Wall." The "window in the wall" is the Sacred Host in the monstrance. It is the window between two worlds. As a window belongs at once to both the room inside and to the open air outside, so His Eucharistic Body belongs at once to both time and eternity.

The Sacred Host is the window through which the supernatural light of heaven passes to illuminate our souls. As a beam of sunlight coming from a window makes visible the specks of dust that fill the air, so the beam of supernatural light from the Host makes visible the specks of pride, avarice, anger, lust, gluttony, envy and sloth that fill our souls. What better place then is there to make an examination of conscience than in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? Let us go to Him in the Blessed Sacrament and ask Him to fill our souls with light so that we may see how to become more pleasing to Him.

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Apostolate for Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

§ - The Adorer's Voice - §

On Corpus Christi, St. Raymond De Penafort's Perpetual Adoration Chapel in Mt. Prospect, Illinois celebrated their 5th anniversary. Each of the following four Adorer's spoke about what their chapel has meant to them.

"A friend invited me to come to the Adoration Chapel and pray. My life was busy and I had no interest praying in the chapel but I did go. As I prayed, words cannot describe the love and peace that I felt...He touched me...and now going to the chapel is an important part of my life."

"In accepting what Jesus is doing in my life, I realize He never fails and what He does in my life is all for a good purpose."

"I have found that visiting with Jesus in the Chapel builds a strength relationship with Our Father so you can find the way to change your life. You can then be one with Jesus and be His instrument to do His work and then, and only then, can you have

peace, joy, and love in your life."

"The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel affords us the opportunity for a peaceful and holy respite to talk with God about our joys, concerns and problems. Through frequent visits we build a stronger relationship with God, as well as to experience the peace which God brings to us."

"Going to the chapel has moved my spirit to new heights. In accepting what Jesus is doing in my life, I realize He never fails and what He does in my life is all for a good purpose."

Ask by Two or More in the Name of Jesus

Jesus was instructing His disciples when He said to them, "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:19-20)

Friends with Jesus

By Dorothy Smith

o foster a friendship, especially a worthwhile one, conversation is the strongest link. When you talk to a friend it's always easy to pick up right where you left off. Somehow, even when the friend is not physically present you mentally plan the next conversation. And so this talking, this sharing, this listening makes for a good friendship.

When you come to the Adoration Chapel for one hour a week, there is not enough time to converse with Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The hour simply flies. After awhile, you find yourself pretty much caught up with things to talk about. You read your conversation (prayers) and in the silence Jesus speaks to your heart. You say "Goodbye" and He waits for your return. What friends you must be!

Testimony for Favors Granted

by Authors Unknown



"Thank you Jesus for loving us"

"For everything I take for granted"

"Father is going to Sunday Mass after many years of being away from church - due to his brother's prayers and the Chapel"

"Thank you Dear Lord for having a curable cancer - I will do my best to be a better person inside and out - I love you"

"Thank you for a nice day"

For help to start Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at your site, call or write "The Real Presence Association, Inc."

If you have a short story about Eucharistic education or adoration that you would like to share with others, send it to "The Real Presence Assn., Inc." Not all stories can be used and none will be returned.

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