
Mane Nobiscum Domine

September 19, 2006

"Stay with us, Lord..." (cf. Luke 24:29)

24-Hour Weekly Adoration Underway

At 8 PM on September 12th, a weekly 24-hour period of adoration began at St. Peter Catholic Church in Stevens Point. Now every Tuesday through Wednesday, 8 PM to 8 PM, a full schedule of adorers, usually at least two per hour, is present to keep watch with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The regular adorers are joined by many others who drop in to pray at various times throughout the day, though from 10 PM to 7 AM the doors are locked and scheduled adorers take the night watch. The first 24-hour adoration time was a great success, with about 75 people signing the register. Thank you to all who have made the commitment to make a regular holy hour, assuring that Jesus is never left alone during this time of adoration. Thanks also to all who come and pray although they are unable to commit to a specific hour. Your participation is encouraging to all of us.

We continue to receive sign-ups. If you or anyone you know are interested in signing up for a specific holy hour or are willing to be a substitute, we are happy to receive new names and add them to the schedule. There is an ongoing need for new adorers. Just call Jason or Darcy Bunn (343-9007) or e-mail jdbunn@charter.net to sign up.

Please remember to place your prayer intentions in our petition book, as well as record the graces received through adoration in the book provided for that purpose, near the sign-in sheet when you come for adoration.

Attention Regular Adorers - Receive Pin October 7-8, 2006

On the weekend of October 7-8, 2006, the regular adorers who have signed up for a weekly holy hour, and those who have committed to being substitute adorers, will be presented with Eucharistic Adoration pins during the weekend Masses. Mass times are 4 PM Saturday, and Sunday at 8 AM and 10 AM. Father Louis will bless the pins and present them to the regular adorers and substitutes who are there at each Mass.

Regular adorers and substitutes, please stop into the sacristy at least ten minutes before Mass to let Father Louis know you are present, and he will let you know when you will be called forward at Mass to receive your pin.

We hope you will be able to make it to one of the Masses at St. Peter's that weekend, as this is a powerful witness to the parish of the importance of devotion to the Eucharist. However, if you are unable to attend one of the Masses at St. Peter's on October 7-8, let Jason or Darcy know, so we can be sure that you receive your pin.

The Witness of Wearing A Eucharistic Adoration Pin

Shortly after Jason and I were married we moved to Laurel, Maryland, and not long after that we found out we were going to be blessed with a baby. We wanted to find a pro-life OB-GYN, and it turned out the nearest one was 70 miles away. His name is Dr. Gary Smith. My first appointment was on the evening before Thanksgiving Day, and we got stuck in traffic not arriving until long after his office was closed. We found Dr. Smith sitting behind the reception desk, praying the Liturgy of the Hours while he waited for us. Then I noticed two pins on his shirt. One was an image of the Divine Mercy. The other was shaped like a monstrance. Up until then I was nervous about my first doctor visit in a new place, but after seeing what a man of prayer and faith this doctor was, I was put at ease. I later learned that he was instrumental in founding perpetual adoration at the chapel in the Catholic high school in Hagerstown. Now I know that his monstrance pin probably indicated his participation as a regular adorer. (Dr. Smith begged us for prayers as we left each of my appointments; he is up against a lot of opposition being a pro-life and NFP-only doctor... I'm sure he would greatly appreciate it if you remember him, and all pro-life and NFP-only doctors, when you pray in adoration at St. Peter's!)

Promoting Adoration and Looking Ahead

A short meeting was held on September 1, 2006 to discuss ways of increasing education about Eucharistic adoration. One idea that came from the discussion is having someone arrange to speak at various parish groups and invite them to adopt a holy hour (or hours) as a group. It was suggested to advertise on Relevant Radio and other parish bulletins as well. (In fact, some parishes are already running announcements about St. Peter's weekly adoration time, and Relevant Radio will soon be including our adoration time in their regular announcements.)

The informal committee investigating the possibility of starting Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at St. Peter's has notified the Building and Grounds Committee that the parish conference room in the rectory is being considered as a potential site for a chapel (it formerly housed the convent chapel). The PEA committee will be inviting a contractor to look into the use of the parish conference room as a possible location for Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. This will determine if there are any "show stoppers" that would halt investigating this possibility further. Among several important considerations, of course, is that the conference room is used for a variety of meetings and activities, and an alternate location would be needed for those if the conference room was returned to being a chapel. No future meeting is scheduled yet for this group. We will meet again once the contractor looks at the room and makes recommendations, as well as suggests a ballpark budget for such a project.

Recent Quote From Our Holy Father

Another essential way of being with the Lord is "Eucharistic adoration. ... In the sacred Host, He is present, the true treasure, always waiting for us. Only by adoring this presence do we learn how to receive Him properly. ... Let us love being with the Lord! There we can speak with Him about everything. We can offer Him our petitions, our concerns, our troubles. Our joys. Our gratitude, our disappointments, our needs and our aspirations. There we can also constantly ask Him: 'Lord send laborers into Your harvest! Help me to be a good worker in Your vineyard!'" (Pope Benedict XVI, September 11, 2006).

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Article Excerpt

From "Most Precious Treasure" by Tim Drake (<http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0450.html>)

ADORATION CHANGES PEOPLE

Knights of Columbus in Pinehurst, N.C., have taken a special interest in the eucharistic adoration program at Sacred Heart Church. The first adoration coordinator was Past Grand Knight Vincent D. Kaptur Jr. of Sacred Heart Council 11103, now deceased.

Five years ago Florence Miller had never heard of perpetual adoration. Today she is the parish's program coordinator. Miller sees the Knights' involvement as natural since "they serve as the protectors of the Eucharist."

Knight Thomas G. Cestone took on the responsibility of promoting eucharistic adoration when he became Council 11103's Church activities director.

"When I became Church activities director I was given a booklet describing my duties, and supporting perpetual eucharistic adoration was one of the responsibilities."

After talking with Miller, Cestone set out to promote adoration among the Knights and recruit members for hard-to-fill time slots. Currently, three Knights serve as team captains, and nearly half of the council's 170 members are regular adorers.

"Every now and then," says Cestone, "I'm surprised to see a Knight that I didn't know was an adorer leaving the chapel."

Cestone says he has seen a definite change in parishioners' attitudes toward religious devotion.

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(PEA Article Excerpt Continued)

Miller agrees, saying that she has seen an increase in the number of parishioners active in other parish programs. "If you're afraid of falling in love with the Blessed Sacrament, adoration isn't for you," Miller says. "It changes people."

Miller says she has seen the big and little ways adoration has influenced her parish. "It unites the church," she says. "We have all kinds of adorers — old and young; men, women and children; men's and women's prayer groups; Scripture study groups; parish staff and committees; and the parish council are all represented as adorers."

"Until December 1999," she adds, "outside of Mass, the church doors were locked both day and night." After conducting a survey of adorers, they asked that the church remain open.

"People are coming and going all the time. There is a hospital across the street, so people can now come to pray for loved ones who may be sick. We have more adorers today than we did when we conducted the survey.

Only the dear Lord himself knows how many visitors who may not otherwise have come have spent hours with him," Miller says.

St. Dominic Church in New Orleans has not had perpetual eucharistic adoration for long, but parishioners have already said that they have seen the difference it makes. The parish started its program on Palm Sunday in 2000.

"Our adoration chapel is the result of other things that have been done in the parish," says Dominican Father Neal McDermott. Several years ago he started a faith enrichment program for adult couples called "Supper and Substance."

"Couples could see that they had a spirituality that had to be nourished through Mass and the Eucharist," Father McDermott explains, "The program spread to 40 area churches. In time, these same people began asking for perpetual adoration. In the year since it was instituted here at St. Dominic, there has been a genuine growth in love" for the Eucharist.

"People are regaining a sense of sin in their lives," Father McDermott says. In response, he has started hearing confessions twice a day. "The closer you get to Christ, the more aware you are of sin. It convicts us and makes us want to be better."

Father McDermott believes adoration has also benefited the priests at St. Dominic. "Adoration has drawn us priests much closer to our people. That's been a real blessing for me. It used to be that only the cloistered nuns had perpetual adoration. Sometimes when I go into the chapel I have to pinch myself to think that we have perpetual adoration. This is something extraordinary."

Susie Veters, a parishioner at St. Dominic, says adoration changed her life. She now coordinates the parish program and is on the archdiocesan committee that hopes to have adoration programs started in every parish in New Orleans.

"Archbishop Francis Schulte has been promoting it," says Veters. "Out of 140 parishes in New Orleans, approximately 100 have some form of adoration and 16 have perpetual eucharistic adoration." Archbishop Schulte is a member of Parkersburg (W. Va.) Council 594.

YOU SHALL KNOW HIM BY HIS FRUITS

A resurgence of adoration programs may signal that Catholics are not as ignorant about Church doctrine on the Real Presence as some recent surveys indicated.

Father Daniel C. Conlin, pastor of St. Columba Parish in St. Paul and a member of St. Agnes Council 9831 also in St. Paul, says he has seen the fruits of adoration in those who come to pray. "I see families praying together. Kids come with their parents, husbands come with their wives, and grandparents come with their grandchildren. That is more than sufficient grace; that is fruit enough aside from any miracles.

"People come to adoration because they are hungry and thirsty for the Lord," Father Conlin adds. "They find peace by being with him and they come away more focused, more courageous and more generous in living their faith."

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Please Take One!

Praying for Fallen-Away Catholics

Our pastor Fr. Louis mentioned that many people have come to him, and also several have asked for prayers in our adoration petition book, because they are heart-broken over loved ones who have fallen away from the practice of their Catholic faith. We can help our loved ones find their way home to the Catholic Church with our prayers before the Blessed Sacrament! Following is a prayer from the St. Monica Sodality (St. John Cantius parish, Chicago). (<http://www.cantius.org/St-Monica.Sod.htm>)

ST. MONICA SODALITY PRAYER

Eternal & merciful Father, I give You thanks for the gift of Your Divine Son who suffered, died & rose for all mankind. I thank You also for my Catholic Faith & ask Your help that I may grow in fidelity by prayer, by works of charity & penance, by reflection on Your Word, & by regular participation in the Sacrament of Penance & the Holy Eucharist.

You gave St. Monica a spirit of selfless love manifested in her constant prayers for the conversion of her son Augustine. Inspired by boundless confidence in your power to move hearts, & by the success of her prayer, I ask the grace to imitate her constancy in my prayer for [name(s)] who no longer share(s) in the intimate life of Your Catholic family. Grant through my prayer and witness that (he/she/they) may be open to the promptings of Your Holy Spirit, to return to loving union with Your Church.

Amen.

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Mane Nobiscum Domine is offered as a newsletter to keep in touch with those who are interested in promoting Eucharistic devotion and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Peter Parish in Stevens Point, WI. For more information please contact Darcy Bunn at (715) 343-9007.

A.M.D.G.