
Mane Nobiscum Domine

January 16, 2007

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

Eucharistic Adoration Meeting on February 12, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Please come to a meeting on Monday February 12 at 6:30 PM in the St. Faustina Room (ground level of church) to make plans for the expanding of hours of adoration at St. Peter's, as well as determine what new responsibilities there will be and who will help with the growing program. This will be a practical discussion determining concrete steps to be taken with the program and to put a promotion campaign in place. If you can't make this meeting but are willing to help with the next phase of the program, please get in touch with Darcy or Jason (343-9007 or jdbunn@charter.net).

A Day of Prayer on the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Please join us for a special Day of Prayer on January 22 at St. Peter's. We will mark the 34th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade (the Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion) by seeking to make reparation for all the crimes committed against human life, and to pray for an end to the evil of abortion. The day will begin with the regular parish rosary at 7:30 AM (Joyful Mysteries) and 8 AM Mass. After this, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration throughout the day. The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed at noon, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 PM, the Sorrowful Mysteries at 4 PM, and the Glorious Mysteries at 8 PM. The day will conclude with Benediction at 8:30 PM.

A Thank You to Adorers

Thank you to all our regular adorers and subs, as well as those not on our schedule who come to pray at St. Peter's during our 24 hours of adoration. At times we have two dozen or more people in the church praying, and even a class or two of students from St. Peter's Middle School, which is heartwarming to see. Our Lord must be pleased that so many are coming to spend time out of their busy lives with Him. There are, however, some times we have one or two people – see below for the hours we need more regular adorers. Overall, the program is running very well, which has led to the question of expanding the hours of adoration available at St. Peter's. In this newsletter we'll look at the possibilities under consideration for the near future.

More Regular Adorers Needed

As part of the ongoing maintenance of a successful Eucharistic Adoration program, there is the need to continually find new adorers. This is just a fact of life... people's schedules change etc. so we find ourselves needing to invite more people to get involved. Moreover, we ought to be constantly inviting people to become regular adorers, because we know from experience how fruitful that time spent with Jesus is. One hour in the Real Presence can make up for hours of "banging our heads against the wall" trying to figure out the problems in our lives... or years of struggling with difficult relationships or concerns we have about people we love. We want to bring as many people as possible into regular conversation with our Lord, so their hearts can be converted closer to Him, and they can find their true Love in Him.

Currently, we are in need of additional regular adorers for these hours:

1 AM Wednesday
1 PM Wednesday
2 PM Wednesday

(Although we usually have a nice amount of non-scheduled adorers present during the afternoon, it is still important to have two regularly scheduled adorers at every hour.)

Please help spread the word... if you know someone you think would be interested in signing up for an hour, please encourage them to get in touch with Jason and Darcy at 343-9007 or jdbunn@charter.net.

More Weekly Hours to Adore Jesus at St. Peter's Available as Soon as This Spring

Thank you to those who responded to our request for feedback about the adoration program, and about the ideas presented in the audio tape/CD by Fr. Ricardo. We have also had the opportunity to talk with Fr. Louis about the next steps for adoration at St. Peter's. One idea under consideration is the addition of another 24 hours to the schedule. Fr. Louis would like to have more people present for Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and to facilitate this and provide more hours for adoration, one possibility is to have Exposition following the 8 AM Mass on Tuesday morning and conclude with Benediction before the 8 AM Mass on Thursday morning. There may also be Benediction on Wednesday evenings at the beginning of Religious Education classes, which would be a little earlier than we have it now... this may make it more convenient for adult adorers to come to Benediction as well. We will be following up on this idea, and if it seems feasible, we'll look at beginning the new schedule after Easter. At that point we will also need additional people to help with coordinating the program as well as to take on the responsibilities of setting up and taking down. And of course we will need to promote these additional hours in order to encourage more adorers to sign up as regulars to provide coverage.

Please send us your thoughts about this, as well as plan to attend the next meeting on February 12 at 6:30 PM in the St. Faustina Room.

Food for Meditation

"Encountered in the liturgy and contemplated in adoration, Jesus in the Eucharist is like a 'prism' through which one can penetrate further into reality, in the ascetic and mystical, the intellectual and speculative, as well as the historical and moral perspectives. In the Eucharist, Christ is really present and Holy Mass is a living memorial of his Pasch. The Blessed Sacrament is the qualitative centre of the cosmos and of history. Therefore, it constitutes an inexhaustible source of thought and action for anyone who sets out to seek the truth and desires to cooperate with it. It is, so to speak, a 'concentrate' of truth and love. It not only illumines human knowledge, but also and above all human action and human life, in accordance with 'the truth in love' (Eph 4:15), as St Paul said, in the daily task of acting as Jesus himself did. Thus, the Eucharist fosters in those who nourish themselves on it with perseverance and faith a fruitful unity between contemplation and action" (Pope Benedict XVI, Dec. 14, 2006).

An Invitation to Exposition and Benediction

It's late in the evening on a cold winter night. Inside your home, it's cozy and warm. A good book awaits you, or prime time TV. Why on earth would you be thinking of going out into the night over to church?

Because it's time for either Exposition or Benediction! On Tuesday nights at 8 PM, the Blessed Sacrament is placed in a monstrance and set up high above the altar to be adored (Exposition). At 8 PM Wednesday nights, it is Jesus Himself who blesses us as the priest, with his hands hidden inside the humeral veil, makes the sign of the cross over the people with the Eucharist in the monstrance.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is an opportunity for adorers to gather and welcome Jesus into a special time of adoration, when we will be able to gaze upon Him with our own eyes. At Exposition, after Jesus is in the Monstrance, the people sing *O Salutaris Hostia*. This prayer was written by St. Thomas Aquinas:

O salutaris hostia
 quae caeli pandis ostium,
 bella premunt hostilia:
 da robur, fer auxilium
 Uni trinoque Domino
 sit sempiterna gloria,
 qui vitam sine termino
 nobis donet in patria. Amen.

O saving Victim, open wide
 The gate of Heaven to man below;
 Our foes press on from every side;
 Thy strength supply; Thine aid bestow.
 All praise and thanks to Thee ascend,
 For evermore, bless'd Three in One.
 O grant us life that shall not end
 In our true native land with Thee. Amen

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

(Continued from Pg. 2)

Singing this hymn together is a chance to unite as God's people to show our devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to the Most Holy Trinity. We acknowledge His power to save us, seek His assistance in our hour of need, and glorify God while voicing our hopes of life forever with Him.

There is a silent time of prayer and adoration has begun. It is a short rite, but an important time when the Eucharist is exposed for adoration.

Benediction can take place at any time during adoration, and it may be followed by Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as it is in the case of our current schedule at St. Peter's. At 8 PM, Benediction begins with the singing of *Tantum Ergo Sacramentum*, again by St. Thomas Aquinas:

Tantum ergo sacramentum	Down in adoration falling,
Veneremur cernui,	Lo! the sacred Host we hail;
Et antiquum documentum	Lo! o'er ancient forms departing,
Novo cedat ritui;	newer rites of grace prevail;
Praestet fides supplementum	faith for all defects supplying,
Sensuum defectui.	where the feeble sense fail.
Genitori Genitoque	To the everlasting Father,
Laus et jubilatio,	and the Son who reigns on high,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque	with the Holy Ghost proceeding
Sit et benedictio;	forth from Each eternally,
Procedenti ab utroque	be salvation, honor, blessing,
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.	might and endless majesty.
	Amen.

The priest then takes up the monstrance, and with his veiled hands holding the monstrance, makes the sign of the cross. In this event, it is not the priest who is blessing us, but Our Lord Himself. Talk about something worth going out into the cold for!

When the Eucharist is reposed, there is the recitation of the Diving Praises, and finally the singing of a hymn of praise, usually "Holy God We Praise Thy Name." All of the prayers used during Exposition are inside the back cover of the missalette, so it is easy to follow along when you come to participate. Next time we have adoration, why not make the effort to attend either Exposition or Benediction, or both?

St. Therese's Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament from the Perpetual Adoration List (Real Presence Association)

It is quite well known how much St. Therese was devoted to her favorite occupation in Carmel, that of being sacristan. She loved to look in the chalice and at the paten, seeing her reflection, realizing that soon the Holy Eucharist would be there. She would also kiss the large priest's altar bread that would be consecrated and also the corporal.

Few have written about St. Therese's great reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. We are fortunate that John Beevers, writing about this in "The Storm of Glory," included the following significant incidents. "One day after Mass St. Therese discovered a Particle of the Sacred Host on the corporal. She ran to the laundry where her novices were and signaled for them to follow her. Back in the sacristy they knelt in adoration. There was a similar incident: a novice met St. Therese in the cloister. St. Therese said, in a low, intense voice; 'follow me. I am carrying Jesus.' She was coming from the altar where she had found a Fragment of the Sacred Host and she was carrying it to the sacristy, after sending a message to the priest. The two nuns knelt in adoration before Our Blessed Lord until the priest arrived."

Today, when, unfortunately, so few are concerned about Particles of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Therese could be a good teacher of sound theology and devout reverence. Many people seem to have forgotten that the Particles from a Consecrated Host are Our Savior Jesus Christ. To be concerned about Them is not a scruple but rather sound theology and devout reverence and faithful imitation of St. Therese of Lisieux.

When He Was Cardinal Ratzinger...**Here's what our Holy Father Said in 2003 about Eucharistic Adoration (from Zenit 3/17/03)**

You may find some of the quotes from this Zenit news story strangely familiar... not only have some of these quotes come up in previous newsletters, but some of this interview was mentioned in the audio tape/CD by Fr. Riccardo that was made available to our adorers. Now you have it from the source!

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, who worked closely with John Paul II in the forthcoming encyclical on the Eucharist, has just published a book on this sacrament.

"In the crisis of faith we are experiencing, the critical issue seems to be increasingly the correct celebration and correct understanding of the Eucharist," the cardinal says in "An Intimate God" ("Il Dio Vicino," St. Paul Editions), which has just gone on sale in Italian.

"All of us know the difference between a Church that prays and a Church that has been reduced to a museum," explains Cardinal Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Today we run the risk of having our churches turned into museums and ending like museums: If they are not closed, they are pillaged," he says. "They have no life. The measure of the Church's vitality, the measure of its interior openness, will be reflected in the fact that its doors remain open, precisely because it is a church where there is constant prayer.

"The Eucharist, and the community that celebrates it, will be full in the measure in which we prepare ourselves in silent prayer before the presence of the Lord and become persons who want to communicate with truth."

The cardinal leaves room for arguments that are sometimes heard nowadays: "I can also pray in the woods, submerged in nature."

"Of course one can," Cardinal Ratzinger replies. "However, if it was only that way, then the initiative of prayer would remain totally within us: Then God would be a postulate of our thought. That fact that he responds or might want to respond, would remain an open question."

"Eucharist means: God has responded," the cardinal continues. "The Eucharist is God as response, as a presence that responds. Now the initiative of the divine-human relation no longer depends on us, but on him, and so it becomes really serious.

"This is why, in the realm of eucharistic adoration, prayer reaches a totally new level; only now it involves both parties, and only now is it something serious. What is more, not only does it involve the two parties, but only now is it fully universal: When we pray in the presence of the Eucharist, we are never alone. The whole Church that celebrates the Eucharist prays with us."

"In this prayer we are no longer before a God we have thought about, but before a God who has really given himself to us; before a God who has made himself communion for us, who thus liberates us from our limits through communion and leads us to the Resurrection," Cardinal Ratzinger concludes. "This is the prayer we must seek again."

Mane Nobiscum Domine is Also Available by E-Mail

Did you know that this newsletter also goes out via e-mail? If you would like to receive your copy by e-mail, write to jbunn@charter.net to be added to the list of subscribers. Not only will you have this information delivered to you personally, but you will be able to forward the news to your friends and family.