

Pastor's Column

August 16, 2015

Eucharistic Adoration

Jesus Christ left us an inestimable gift before He parted from this world, that gift is His very self in the form of the Eucharist. As most of us know, the bread and wine consecrated at Mass becomes the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ (who is God). This isn't just what Catholics believe as if others that believe differently might be right too, nor is this true because we want it to be. The bread and wine consecrated at Mass truly becomes the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ whether we accept this fact or not. In John 6:61 Jesus asks: "does this shock you?" The answer to that question is 'yes' because most of the people listening to Him got up and left. But you and I do believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist and in His power.

Because of the greatness of God and our dimmed intellect and will, we by our fallen nature do a relatively poor job of respecting this fact when we consider the awesomeness of God. The crowds in our gospel reading certainly had a hard time believing it for they walked out on Jesus once it became clear what He was saying. It's not so much that we walk out on Jesus but that we typically don't show up in the first place. For example, if anyone of us could literally go to God and hang out with Him we would right? Instead almost all Americans spend hours a day staring into a TV or computer screen or a hand held device. Now how many hours a day do most Americans spend with God – none, of course. Imagine if God announced from the heavens that His Son, Jesus, was going to come down to earth at a specific time and place. Millions (hundreds of millions, billions?) of people would flock to that place to witness the coming of Jesus Christ. Well, Jesus actually comes down to earth every time we celebrate Mass, unfortunately He doesn't get the kind of respect and audience He deserves because our priorities are out of whack. Jesus comes in humility as He did at Bethlehem; recognized by those who had faith and overlooked by everyone else.

In every Catholic Church is a tabernacle where the Eucharist [*also known as the Blessed Sacrament*] is kept. Our Lord desires that we spend still, silent time with Him in prayer in His Eucharistic presence, this is called Adoration. Any and all are welcomed in any Catholic Church to spend time with Jesus before the tabernacles that repose Him. Currently on Wednesdays at Holy Redeemer and on special occasions, Jesus is taken out of the tabernacle and placed on the altar to be worshiped and adored. In order for this to be possible, people have to make a commitment of time to be with Him, for He cannot be left alone. That's where you come in.

Spending time with Jesus is worth it: as God, He can sanctify, bless, console, enlighten, purify, heal, restore, strengthen, empower, and etc., I can go on all day. Our relationship with Jesus increases profoundly when we set aside time to spend with Him in Eucharistic Adoration. The pastor of Longview, Fr. Bryan Ochs found his vocation while a student in college through Eucharistic Adoration. People that invest themselves in Eucharistic Adoration see their faith deepen and expand; inevitably committing more of their time, talent and treasure to helping others grow in their faith. On rare occasions we can see miracles happen; while from God's perch, He sees miracles happening all the time.

Currently, Holy Redeemer Parish has Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 8am to 7pm – 11 hours. In the first week of September, Adoration will move from Wednesdays to Fridays beginning at 7:30am and lasting until 7:30am on Saturday – 24 hours. If you're wondering how the timing is possible given the weekday Mass schedule, it is because it is going to move a little bit; more on that in next week's pastor's column.

If you haven't done so already, please sign up for an hour of Adoration. Because they are harder to fill, please consider one of the tougher hours in the night, especially if you don't have to work on Saturdays or are retired (you can sleep in or take a nap later in the day ☺). The sign up cards will remain in the pews next weekend as well. You can fill it out and place it in the offertory basket or turn it into the office.

Following are some quotes from the *Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament* on the fruits of Eucharistic Adoration. Enjoy.

1. He is really there! *"I myself am the living bread come down from heaven."* (Jn 6:51)
2. Day and night Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament because of His infinite love for you! *"Behold I am with you always until the end of the world."* *"I have loved you with an everlasting love, so I am constant in my affection for you."* (Mt. 28:20; Jer 31:3)
3. Each hour you spend with Jesus will deepen his divine peace within your heart. *"Come to me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you."* *"Cast all your anxieties on him for he cares about you."* (Mt 11:28; 1Pt 5:7)
4. Jesus will give you all the graces you need to be happy in life. *"The Lamb on the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water."* (Rev. 7:17)
5. Each moment that you spend in his Eucharistic presence will increase his divine life within you and deepen your personal relationship and friendship with him. *"I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly."* *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who lives in me and I in him, will produce abundantly, for apart from me you can do nothing."* (Jn 10:10, 15:5)
6. Each hour you spend with Jesus on earth will leave your soul everlastingly more beautiful and glorious in heaven. *"They who humble themselves shall be exalted."* *"All of us, gazing on the Lord's glory with unveiled faces, are being transformed from glory to glory into his very image."* (Lk 18:14; 2 Cor 3:18)
7. Jesus will bless you, your family and the whole world for this hour of faith you spend with him in the Blessed Sacrament. *"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."* Faith can move mountains. *"What is needed is trust."* *"Behold I make all things new."* (Jn 20:29; Mk 11:23; Mk 5:36; Rev 21:5)
8. Each moment you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament brings joy to his Sacred Heart! *"My delight is to be with you."* (Prov 8:31)
9. When you look upon the Sacred Host, you look upon Jesus, the Son of God. *"Indeed, this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life. Him I will raise up on the last day."* (Jn 6:40)
10. Jesus is infinitely deserving of our unceasing thanksgiving and adoration for all he has done for our salvation. *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and praise!"* (Rev 5:12)
11. Jesus asked you to love him in return by spending one quiet hour with him each week in the Blessed Sacrament. *"Where your treasure is, there is your heart."* *"Could you not watch one hour with me?"* (Mt 6:21, 26:40)

May Our Eucharistic Lord Bless You,



Fr. Thomas Nathe