



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time B July 1, 2018

- Adoration sign-up next Sunday
- 368 parishioners spend an hour a week in our Adoration Chapel
- Reasons to consider helping us to have prayer on our campus 24/7

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Eucharistic Adoration is spending time with Jesus who, we Catholics believe, is truly present in the exposed host in our Adoration Chapel. While we can and should spend time with Jesus in our homes and elsewhere, his presence in the Eucharist is, in a sense, more real than elsewhere. It's a bit like the difference between speaking to someone on the phone or behind a screen, and speaking to someone who is *visibly* present to us. We call Eucharistic Adoration "perpetual" when a parish has a chapel where adoration goes on 24/7.

Spending an hour each week is a spiritually enriching experience encouraged by popes and a multitude of saints and ordinary people. If spending an hour with Jesus is a spiritually enriching experience, why might people be hesitant to commit? There are many reasons, some of them unconscious. If you are reluctant to sign up, please consider the following six reasons and see if they apply to you.

Five reasons people do not take part in this devotion

1. ***"It's something I've never done."*** We may not realize it, but we usually have a reluctance (often an *unconscious* reluctance) to doing something we have never done. We tend to say a quick 'No.' But as Christians, we should be open to engaging in something that may enrich our lives spiritually.
2. ***"What would I do for an hour in a chapel?"*** I will respond to this question later in my column.
3. ***"I never know my schedule and I often go away."*** Again, many of our adorers have found an hour that is usually pretty good for them. But we know well that people travel. My co-adorer on Thursdays at 6:00am is currently on vacation. I myself go to Ireland for several weeks during the summer. We try to find a substitute whenever we can't make it. If we are unable to find someone to cover our hour, there's nothing we can do about it, and we just deal with it.

4. ***"I don't need to go to the Adoration Chapel to pray."***

This is a bit like saying, 'I don't need to go to Mass to pray.' To that objection, I usually say, "I hope not." We can pray anywhere and, hopefully, we do. But how often do we give God or Jesus a *good chunk of uninterrupted time* when we are doing nothing else but focusing on him and our relationship with him. Sadly, for the vast majority of Catholics, this does not happen. When we *commit* ourselves to spending one hour a week in *personal prayer*—as opposed to communal prayer (the Mass)—we are definitely giving ourselves a chance to deepen our relationship with God in a way that 'prayer on the run' probably cannot achieve.

5. ***"Too stingy with my time"*** is what one honest lady said to me. One of the keys to a deeper relationship with God is generosity – a willingness to give God a generous chunk of our time on a regular basis.

6. ***"Fear of getting close to Jesus"*** is often an *unconscious* reason why we don't want to give God an opportunity to draw us close to him. I assume we all want to spend eternity with God. If so, don't we think it might be a good idea to get close to him while on earth? Doing so, I assume, will shorten our time in purgatory. One of the purposes of purgatory is to cleanse or purify us of all that hinders us from having an intimate relationship with God.

Five reasons to spend an hour with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel

1. ***We are called to do our bit to help our parish have non-stop prayer on our parish campus.*** This is an altruistic reason – each of us doing our bit to help our parish to be more prayerful.
2. ***Jesus invites us.*** During his agony in the garden, Jesus says to his sleeping Apostles: *"Could you not spend one hour with me."* Isn't it amazing that we have no problem finding *several* hours a week doing things like playing golf, working out at the gym, watching TV, talking on social media—but not have time to spend *one hour* with Jesus in addition to the hour we spend with our community at Mass!
3. ***Having a weekly one-hour appointment with Jesus in the Adoration Chapel is one way to make sure we have quality time with him.*** It is good and fine to say a

few prayers as we run through the day and week, but no in-depth relationship can be sustained in that way.

4. *Spending one hour a week with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel is one concrete way to show how important our relationship with Jesus is.* It has been rightly said: ‘Tell me *how* you spend your time and money and I will tell you what is important to you.’

5. *Spending an hour a week in adoration is one way to make sure we do some spiritual reading.* There are all kinds of reading. But to what extent do we spend time doing *spiritual* reading, which is food for the mind and soul? We may have good intentions to pray more and engage in spiritual reading, but if we don’t mark a time in our calendar, it probably won’t happen.

What Clara and John say about spending time in our Adoration Chapel

Clara, a wife and mother of three children in grade school, and a manager at work, says:

Going to the Adoration Chapel has helped me grow spiritually in a way I cannot describe with words. It is truly a special place where Jesus is waiting for us to come and spend time with him. He is always waiting, and he is waiting for you.

John is a Navy veteran and retired from Northrup Grumman. He currently heads up our Thrift Store, spending many hours each week at the store. He writes:

I am so amazed at the positive effect that the past year of adoration is having for me! So many times I’ve chosen a book at random and found something in it that directly related to events in our family life. I walk out of the chapel knowing that God is with me and will help me face whatever comes my way. I started out wondering how to fit the hour into my schedule; now I happily schedule everything else around adoration. Life gets easy when you get your priorities straight.

I hope and pray that reflecting on the above will motivate you to sign up next Sunday to spend an hour with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel – doing *your* bit to make continuous prayer on our campus a success and making an important decision to do something very concrete to deepen your relationship with God.

168 hours in the week: Is there an hour that might work for you?

We currently have 368 adorers. **Sam Rodriguez** coordinates the operation of this Ministry by updating the sign-in book each week in the Adoration Chapel.

Thank you, Sam. For any questions about this Prayer Ministry, email Sam at adoration.ascension@gmail.com.

Reflection on today’s Gospel

The Cost of Healing

Reflecting on today’s Gospel, Fr. Flor McCarthy writes:

The woman who came to Jesus was a deeply wounded person. In her case the wound was visible. But people can be wounded without it appearing on the outside. They may carry invisible wounds—feelings of rejection, failure, worthlessness, loneliness, depression, bitterness, and so on. All of us need healing.

Even when he was surrounded by people, if someone touched him and was healed, Jesus knew it. Why was this? It was because each cure took something out of him. In the words of the gospel, ‘power went out to him.’

To achieve success at something, we have to put something of ourselves into it, so much so that we may feel drained afterwards. This is especially true of healing. Healing can be exhausting and painful for the healer.

The healing act itself is often an occasion of suffering. We can’t take away suffering without somehow and to some degree entering into it, if only by just trying to understand the sufferer, and drawing close to him or her. The healer must in some way suffer.

Sometimes what leads people to become healers is an experience of having been sick themselves and having been healed. Healers are very conscious of their own vulnerability. They are themselves vulnerable, and that is part of the reason they heal. Jesus was totally vulnerable to people. He took their pain into himself, he suffered with each one.

Every time Jesus healed someone it took something out of him. The greatness of Jesus was that he was prepared to pay the price of helping others. We are following in his steps when we give of ourselves in helping others.

Our lives are continually touching those of other people. Each of us is capable of doing some healing. We may not be able to cure, but it is within our power to care. And caring is a very healing thing. A compassionate heart can heal almost anything.

With a little care we could ease a troubled mind. With a little of our time we could ease the pain of loneliness for someone. With a little sympathy we could heal a wounded heart. Each act of caring will cost us something.

Then there is the ministry of accompaniment—just being there with the sick person. It is a beautiful but

demanding ministry. It calls for awareness, sensitivity, and self-forgetfulness. Some have a real gift for it.

Sometimes there is nothing we can do for the sufferer, and nothing we can say either. In that case our only ministry is that of simple presence, like that of Mary at the foot of the cross. It is a ministry of powerlessness. Yet, just by being there, by standing alongside, we save the sufferer from feeling abandoned, and offer something very precious, namely, human comfort.

Healing is not a task only for the individual. If we can create communities where people can get together, work together, and support each other, then healing becomes a part of everyday life.

(Used with permission granted by Dominican Publications, www.dominicanpublication.com. *New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies*, by Flor McCarthy.)

July 4th—Independence Day

This Wednesday, we celebrate Independence Day and we thank God for the many blessings we share because we live in “America the Beautiful.”

When I became a citizen of this country in 1980, I received two plaques with the following inscriptions:

*You who have been born in America ...
I wish I could make you understand
what it is like not to be an American
not to have been an American all your life ...
and then suddenly with the words of a man
in flowing robes to be one,
for that moment and forever after.*

*One moment you belong with your fathers
to a million dead yesterdays;
the next you belong to America
to a million unborn tomorrows.*

- George Magar Mardikian

*America has been settled by people of all Nations.
All nations may claim for their own.
We are not a tribe of people ...
No, our blood is as the flood of a thousand noble
currents all pouring into one ...
We are not a nation so much as a world.*

- Herman Melville

Prayer for the United States

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer
that you will keep the United States
in your holy protection;
that you will incline the hearts of the citizens
to respect government and entertain a
brotherly affection and love for one another
and for the fellow-citizens of the United
States at large.

Dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy,
and to demean ourselves with that charity,
humility and pacific temper of mind
which were the characteristics
of the Divine Author of our blessed religion
and without which we can never be
a happy nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a wonderful Independence Day!

This year I do not leave for Ireland until August 8. Pope Francis is coming to Ireland the last weekend of August. He wants me there. I told him I would be glad to oblige!



Have a blessed week,

Fr. Egan

