

ISSUE 5  
APRIL 2015

PERPETUAL  
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to the first newsletter for 2015. I hope that the year has started well.

One of the articles this issue is from the book *"Forming Intentional Disciples"*. The article states how powerful Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can be in evangelising people in the post-modern world. It can be as simple as inviting someone to come to Adoration with us. As the author says; *"it places the soul in the direct presence of Jesus Christ in the trust that he will act if we leave the door open the merest crack. All it requires is the ability to sit down"*. Have a read of the excerpt and consider whom you might invite to the chapel.

#### **TESTIMONIES / GRACES AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS**

I am really keen to promote the Perpetual Adoration Chapel more widely in the Diocese. Those of us who attend regularly know the graces and fruits that flow from our time with Jesus. If you have a story or testimony you want to share please email me. The sharing of stories is a powerful witness to others in the Diocese.

I am also keen to promote Adoration through the use of the 40 hour devotion. Last year, the Catholic Parish of Mairehau organised the **40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration Devotion** as part of their parish feast day celebrations. It was very fruitful. This devotion could be an excellent opportunity to introduce more people in parishes to Eucharistic Adoration. To this end I made an offer to all the Priests of the Diocese that if they wanted to hold this devotion in their parish I, and members of the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration Committee, would assist them. If you are interested in holding this devotion in your parish please contact me.

#### **DELIVERED: TRUE STORIES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO TURNED FROM PORN TO PURITY**

We know that pornography is a huge problem in the world. The above book by Catholic Author Matt Fradd details a number of powerful stories of people's transformations through Christ Jesus. I have got 40 copies of this book to give away. There is also a book in the chapel. If you want a free copy for yourself or to hand to others please email me. May you have a blessed Easter Season.

**- Matt O'Connell**

# ADORATION AS A FORM OF EVANGELISATION

A BOOK CALLED **"FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES"** BY SHERRY A. WEDDELL IS DOING THE ROUNDS IN THE DIOCESE. IT IS AN EXCELLENT READ. IN ONE OF CHAPTERS IS HAS AN EXCELLENT EXCERPT ABOUT HOW EUCHARISTIC ADORATION **"IS A FORM OF EVANGELIZATION PARTICULARLY SUITED TO THE POSTMODERN MIND-SET"**. THIS EXCERPT IS BELOW AND IS REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

**GOD WITH US:** "One very simple and nonthreatening way to help foster trust, curiosity, and openness is Eucharistic Adoration. What if we stop thinking of Adoration as primarily a devotion for the already devout and consider it also as a form of evangelization particularly suited to the postmodern mind-set? It is, in fact, an ideal form of devotion for the nondevout.

Adoration appeals to postmoderns because it is experiential, mysterious, and accessible to everyone: the non-baptized, the non-Catholic, the unchurched, the lapsed, the badly catechized, the wounded, the skeptical, the seeking, the prodigal, and those who aren't sure that a relationship with God is even possible. An acquaintance of mine aptly describes it as "Spiritual Radiation Therapy" because it places the soul in the direct presence of Jesus Christ in the trust that he will act if we leave the door open the merest crack. All it requires is the ability to sit down.

This is how one parish leader describes using Adoration to draw the baptized into a deeper relationship with Christ:

*One of the biggest things our community lacked was an experience of the supernatural dimension of the Christian life. It just wasn't on our radar. They had "unintentional" encounters in the liturgy but never something that they felt or experienced as having an impact. Eucharistic Adoration with teens and adults has been a powerful experience of the presence of Christ. Eucharistic Adoration gives them an experience of encountering God.*

I have heard many stories of conversions triggered by "accidental" exposure to the Blessed Sacrament. I myself am Catholic today because I encountered the Blessed Sacrament when I was a completely clueless college student. I had gone through a major conversion experience the year before and

was looking for a place to pray during the day. Protestant churches were closed, but a large Gothic Catholic church nearby was open during the day, although I had no idea why. I walked into Blessed Sacrament Church (!) and *felt* a powerful presence of God that I had never felt before. In an instant, that experience of God's presence leapt over the anti-Catholicism of my fundamentalist childhood, and a most unexpected bridge of trust was suddenly in place.

It was that experience of God's presence that kept me coming back to Catholic churches to pray. I would walk into lovely Protestant churches and think, "It's beautiful but empty." That Presence-for-which-I-had-no-explanation wasn't there. And so I came to regard Blessed Sacrament as my personal prayer place. Nevertheless, my evangelical identity was still firmly in place, and I wasn't open to changing.

Then, one day as I prayed inside Blessed Sacrament, I stopped in front of a statue of what was clearly a young woman. A sign told me that her name was Catherine of Siena. I didn't know anything about Catherine, but I knew that she must be a saint and that Catholics believed that you could ask saints to pray for you.

On impulse I did. "Kate," I said, "you understand what it is like to be a young woman. They say that I can ask you to pray for me. I want so much to find the purpose for

which God has created me. I need to know what I am supposed to do. If you can, please pray that I find it." And then, for reasons I still don't understand, I suddenly lifted my head and directed my next prayer to the ceiling. "And, God, if there's anything to this Catholic thing, I'm open."

The next moment I mentally dismissed the whole idea as possibly the wildest, stupidest thing I had ever done. But I didn't take it back. I didn't grasp the full significance of that moment until I discovered the thresholds many years later. I had acknowledged to myself and to God that I was *open* to personal change. I had crossed, without knowing it, into a new spiritual world.

As a human heart opens to Jesus Christ, it becomes increasingly difficult to remain neutral. The person growing closer to discipleship must cross the next great frontier, from being open to change as a mere possibility to engaging in an active spiritual quest. He or she must cross into the threshold of spiritual seeking".

**Excerpt from *Forming Intentional Disciples*. © 2012 by Sherry A. Weddell, Published by Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., Huntington, IN. [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com), 1-800-348-2440. Reprinted with Permission**

# The Eucharist - Wellspring of Grace

*As adorers of the Blessed Sacrament how often have we been challenged intellectually by the profound mystery of the Eucharist? The incredible mystery of Jesus really present in the form of bread and wine defies all human understanding and yet appeals to our eyes of faith. In his Encyclical Letter, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia (EE)*, given on Holy Thursday 2003, Pope John Paul II speaks in a very beautiful way on the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church.*

In this third of a series of articles, using the Encyclical as a starting point and borrowing from those two great pillars of the Church, Holy Scripture and Sacred Doctrine, we consider how the Eucharist is an amazing source of grace for the Church, for her continuing edification and for that of the world around her.

From the very inception of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, sacramental communion with Christ came about through the Apostles accepting his invitation: "Take it and eat; this is my body" and likewise with the cup: "Drink all of you from this" (Matt 26, 26-27) (EE 21). Through their receiving the Lord's body and blood as food and drink, the Apostles enter into and become part of Christ's sacrifice which would later be completed on Calvary (EE 21). As faithful believers, each time we receive Jesus in the

precious gift of his Sacred Body and Blood, we too enter into this same mystery of His sacrifice. We are not just bystanders, but in fully participating in the sacrifice of the mass we enter into that same sacramental communion offered to us by Jesus.

Through our Baptism, we are made members of the Body of Christ, the Church, and as members of his Body, we no longer belong to ourselves but to Him who died and rose for us (CCC 1267, 1269). Each time we share in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, we are fully sharing in sacramental communion with Christ and from this sharing, the graces received at Baptism are constantly "renewed" and "consolidated" (EE 22). Our communion with Christ not only draws down abundant spiritual graces and blessings upon each of us as individual believers, but goes towards the building up of the whole

Body, the Church. Our communion with Christ draws us into a deeper relationship with him: "I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father" (Jn 15, 15).

As we draw closer to Christ through Eucharistic communion and are transformed by his saving grace, he opens our hearts to others. In this way, the Eucharist is the source and summit of all evangelisation (EE 22). Jesus himself commissions us: "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you" (Jn 20, 21). In responding to this call to reach out to the world, it is the Church's sacramental communion with Christ in the Eucharist that gives her the spiritual power she needs to carry out her mission (EE22) and to be a living witness to "a very closely knit union with God and the unity of the whole human race" (LG 1).

Pope John Paul II strongly encourages the worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass as it is of "inestimable value for the life of the Church". On a personal level, he gives testimony to the renewal, strength, consolation and support he has experienced through time spent in "heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament" (EE 25). He refers to the Eucharist as a "priceless treasure" (EE 25). How can we not think of the treasure that is the kingdom of heaven, hidden in a field which someone has found and to obtain this

treasure sells everything he owns to buy it (Matt 13, 44)?

The Holy Father also refers to the Eucharist as a "wellspring of grace" (EE 25). Just as the water in a spring wells up, overflows and gives life, so too does the Eucharist to all those who receive Holy Communion and pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. As Jesus assures the woman at the well: "...the water that I shall give will turn into a well inside whoever drinks that water, welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4, 14). Just as the woman's testimony of her encounter with the living Christ brought many Samaritans of that town to faith, may the grace we draw from the Eucharist, that wellspring of grace par excellence, bring us and all those we encounter to a deeper faith in Jesus.



# ADORER GATHERING

AT ST GREGORY'S

A large number of adorers gathered together for a time of thanksgiving and fellowship on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December (2014). We began at 2pm with an hour of adoration in the church, a blessed and special time for us to give thanks to the Lord.

**IN THANKSGIVING:** *for all the graces we know have been received by so many people.*

**IN THANKSGIVING:** *for the strength and wisdom we have been granted to help us in times of difficulty.*

**IN THANKSGIVING:** *for the goodness of the Lord, who loves and cares for us.*

**IN THANKSGIVING:** *for our chapel, where we can be with the Lord, any time of the day or night.*

**IN THANKSGIVING:** *for our rostered adorers, whose commitment means we have perpetual adoration in our diocese.*

Following on from our quiet hour in the church, we enjoyed a lovely time of fellowship in the St Gregory's parish centre and a treat or two with a cuppa – plenty of chatter and laughter was heard as old acquaintances were renewed and new ones made. For those day leaders able to be there it was a great opportunity to put "faces to names" and I'm sure the adorers appreciated being able to meet those who work behind the scenes.

If you weren't able to join us last year, please keep an eye out for the next opportunity. We have a retreat day planned (details to be confirmed) June/ July, and will hold another "get-together" in the near future also.

# EASTER VIGIL

## HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS - 2013

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

1. In the Gospel of this radiant night of the Easter Vigil, we first meet the women who go to the tomb of Jesus with spices to anoint his body (cf. *Lk 24:1-3*). They go to perform an act of compassion, a traditional act of affection and love for a dear departed person, just as we would. They had followed Jesus, they had listened to his words, they had felt understood by him in their dignity and they had accompanied him to the very end, to Calvary and to the moment when he was taken down from the cross. We can imagine their feelings as they make their way to the tomb: a certain sadness, sorrow that Jesus had left them, he had died, his life had come to an end. Life would now go on as before. Yet the women continued to feel love, the love for Jesus which now led them to his tomb. But at this point, something completely new and unexpected happens, something which upsets their hearts and their plans, something which will upset their whole life: they see the stone removed from before the tomb, they draw near and they

do not find the Lord's body. It is an event which leaves them perplexed, hesitant, full of questions: "What happened?", "What is the meaning of all this?" (cf. *Lk 24:4*). Doesn't the same thing also happen to us when something completely new occurs in our everyday life? We stop short, we don't understand, we don't know what to do. Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness which God brings us, the newness which God asks of us. We are like the Apostles in the Gospel: often we would prefer to hold on to our own security, to stand in front of a tomb, to think about someone who has died, someone who ultimately lives on only as a memory, like the great historical figures from the past. We are afraid of God's surprises. Dear brothers and sisters, we are afraid of God's surprises! He always surprises us! The Lord is like that.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us not be closed to the newness that God wants to bring into our lives! Are we often weary, disheartened and sad? Do we feel weighed down by our sins? Do we think that

we won't be able to cope? Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up: there are no situations which God cannot change, there is no sin which he cannot forgive if only we open ourselves to him.

2. But let us return to the Gospel, to the women, and take one step further. They find the tomb empty, the body of Jesus is not there, something new has happened, but all this still doesn't tell them anything certain: it raises questions; it leaves them confused, without offering an answer. And suddenly there are two men in dazzling clothes who say: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; but has risen" (*Lk 24:5-6*). What was a simple act, done surely out of love – going to the tomb – has now turned into an event, a truly life-changing event. Nothing remains as it was before, not only in the lives of those women, but also in our own lives and in the history of mankind. Jesus is not dead, he has risen, he is *alive*! He does not simply return to life; rather, he is life itself, because he is the Son of God, the living God (cf. *Num 14:21-28; Deut 5:26; Josh 3:10*). Jesus no longer belongs to the past, but lives in the present and is projected towards the future; Jesus is the everlasting "today" of God. This is how the newness of God appears to the women, the disciples and all of us: as victory over sin, evil and death, over everything that crushes life and

makes it seem less human. And this is a message meant for me and for you dear sister, for you dear brother. How often does Love have to tell us: Why do you look for the living among the dead? Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness... and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive! Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk: you won't be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don't be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do.

3. There is one last little element that I would like to emphasize in the Gospel for this Easter Vigil. The women encounter the newness of God. Jesus has risen, he is alive! But faced with an empty tomb and the two men in brilliant clothes, their first reaction is one of fear: "they were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground", Saint Luke tells us – they didn't even have courage to look. But when they hear the message of the Resurrection, they accept it in faith. And the two men in dazzling clothes tell them something of crucial importance:

remember. "Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee... And they remembered his words" (Lk 24:6,8). This is the invitation to *remember* their encounter with Jesus, to remember his words, his actions, his life; and it is precisely this loving remembrance of their experience with the Master that enables the women to master their fear and to bring the message of the Resurrection to the Apostles and all the others (cf. Lk 24:9). To remember what God has done and continues to do for me, for us, to remember the road we have travelled; this is what opens our hearts to hope for the future. May we learn to remember everything that God has done in our lives.

On this radiant night, let us invoke the intercession of the Virgin Mary, who treasured all these events in her heart (cf. Lk 2:19,51) and ask the Lord to give us a share in his Resurrection. May he open us to the newness that transforms, to the beautiful surprises of God. May he make us men and women capable of remembering all that he has done in our own lives and in the history of our world. May he help us to feel his presence as the one who is alive and at work in our midst. And may he teach us each day, dear brothers and sisters, not to look among the dead for the Living One. Amen.

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## PRAYER TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

Behold, O good and loving  
Jesus,  
that I cast myself on my knees  
before you  
and, with the greatest fervor of  
spirit,  
I pray and beseech you to instill  
into my heart  
ardent sentiments of faith, hope  
and charity,  
with true repentance for my sins  
and a most firm purpose of  
amendment.  
With deep affection and sorrow  
I ponder intimately  
and contemplate in my mind  
your five wounds,  
having before my eyes what the  
prophet David  
had already put in your mouth  
about yourself,  
O good Jesus:  
*They have pierced my hands  
and my feet;  
they have numbered all my  
bones (Ps 21: 17-18).*

# CAN YOU HELP?

Currently we have over 300 adorers signed up to Adore Jesus every week at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. However we still have 30 hours during the week where there is only one adorer rostered on. We are trying to ensure that we have a minimum of two per hour so if something happens there is at least one person in the chapel. Although we have lots of visitors, we don't know how long they stay and how regular they are. The need for two rostered adorers per hour has been brought home to us recently when a person got a flat tyre on the way and was the only rostered adorer. On other occasions people have forgot / slept in and people have had to stay for an extra hour.

If you feel that you could sign up to adore once a week it would be greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form below and send/email it to the address provided.

The hours that require adorers include:

Sundays (12am, 4am, 7am, 8am, 10am, 12 - 3pm), Mondays (8am, 5pm)  
Tuesdays (1am, 3am, 4am), Wednesdays (2am - 5 am), Thursdays (7am, 9am, 3 - 5pm), Fridays (12 - 2am, 3 - 5am, 8 - 11am, 12pm) and Saturdays (11am, 1pm, 2 pm and 6pm)



## ADORER SIGN UP FORM

NAME: ..... PHONE: .....

E-MAIL: ..... MOBILE: .....

ADDRESS: .....

What day would you like to adore? .....

What time would you like to adore? .....

Are you also available to be a substitute? .....

Please return the completed form to:

Perpetual Adoration, PO Box 4544, Christchurch 8140 or e-mail to [chchadoration@gmail.com](mailto:chchadoration@gmail.com)